



Photo by Fumion Sato

THE BATTLE FOR

VALENCIA GARDENS

by Madeleine Saussoie

“It got so bad we couldn’t sit in our own living rooms without bullets racing through and breaking a window,” was the way Marlene Clyburn, mother of three daughters and eight-year tenant at Valencia Gardens (VG) described life there two years ago when a bullet missed her then-three year -old daughter, Keneva, by inches.

That close brush with tragedy prompted Clyburn and several other women to form the Valencia Gardens Review Committee (VGRC) in early 1988. Their aim was to provide the tenants with increased assistance for the security and physical maintenance of their homes.

They were living in a war zone created by drug-related crime, their lives and those of their young children were being threatened, and they sought help. In fact, they demanded it.

On Saturday June 3, 150 enthusiastic representatives of various neighborhood, religious, labor and community organizations turned out at a delegate assembly at St. Teresa’s Catholic Church in Potrero Hill. They celebrated the culmination of months of intensive organizing by the Valencia Gardens Public Housing Tenants Association, with the help of the San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) which, on March 20, resulted in a 21-point agreement worked out between the tenants and then-Deputy-Mayor of Housing, William Witte.

Witte, a Feinstein appointee, resigned on May 31. But David Gilmore, the new Executive Director of the San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) — who attended the June 3 meeting — has promised his active support for the 21-

point agreement.

Fr. Jack Eastwood of St. John’s Episcopal Church nearby the G complex — one of the early conveners of the neighborhood watch groups — is hopeful of a July meeting between Gilmore and the VGRC. Eastwood sees the agreement as a “symbol of the partnership between neighborhood tenants and public housing officials that will keep the Housing Authority accountable.”

Among the more significant provisions of the wide-ranging agreement are reviewing the necessity for physical improvements of the units and grounds at VG and the implementation, monitoring and inspection of such repairs more than once a year.

The renovation and filling of vacant units within 72 hours is also considered imperative in preventing such units from being used as bases of operations for drug dealers. Filling the units should not be a problem since — according to Allen Nunley, Assistant Director of Public Housing — there are 4-5,000 people on the waiting list for public housing, not to mention the thousands of homeless people for whom the Friends of the Homeless are trying to arrange housing with the SFHA.

Also high on the agenda is an agreement to meet on a regular basis with Capt. Michael Brush of Mission Station to increase police patrols in the complex and to more efficiently implement eviction procedures against law breakers. Meetings with representatives of Head Start and other appropriate agencies to institute such on-site social services as child-care programs, employment counselling and supervised recreation are also seen as ways of encouraging other avenues of ad-

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OVER THE CITY

by The Pigeon

Once upon a time, two young turkeys, Tony and Tom, were told to terminate the tenancy upon their roost by falcons in the employ of an evil queen who wanted to transfer it to her toadies. Of course they complied, because falcons have sharp beaks to rend and claws to rake but each of these young turkeys vowed, in his own fashion, to take revenge.

And here is what happened...

Tom schooled himself in treachery, cultivated alliances and schooled birds of all feathers in the ways and means of foiling the queen designs to roust them from their roosts. Tony studied the law, became rich and purchased a fine tree with a fine view from the evil queen, from which he could squirt his squintings upon the sick and roostless birds who huddled in the bleak wasteland below.

Then came the time, inevitably, when the queen was overthrown and of the two now older, tougher, birds, Tom threw his support to the turkey who was elevated a la king while Tony backed a cooked goose. This goosing got his goat and he began to gobble at the sick birds huddling below and called upon the falcons to rip up their flesh and drive them out.

But Lo! the new Turkey King saw no compelling reason to set his falcons upon the sick birds for the pleasure of a political foe so the falcons stood by and snickered as the sick birds gathered up their numbers and chased Tony, gobbling and flapping, out of his fine tree and all the way to Los Angeles.

"Good riddance!" the Turkey King declared and promoted Tom Turkey to be Registrar of Roosts. Which only goes to show that Thanksgiving has to be measured by which side of the oven you're watching from.

American speakers and music, calypso, capoeira and "lots of children's activities". That's July 15th, 11 AM to Midnight.

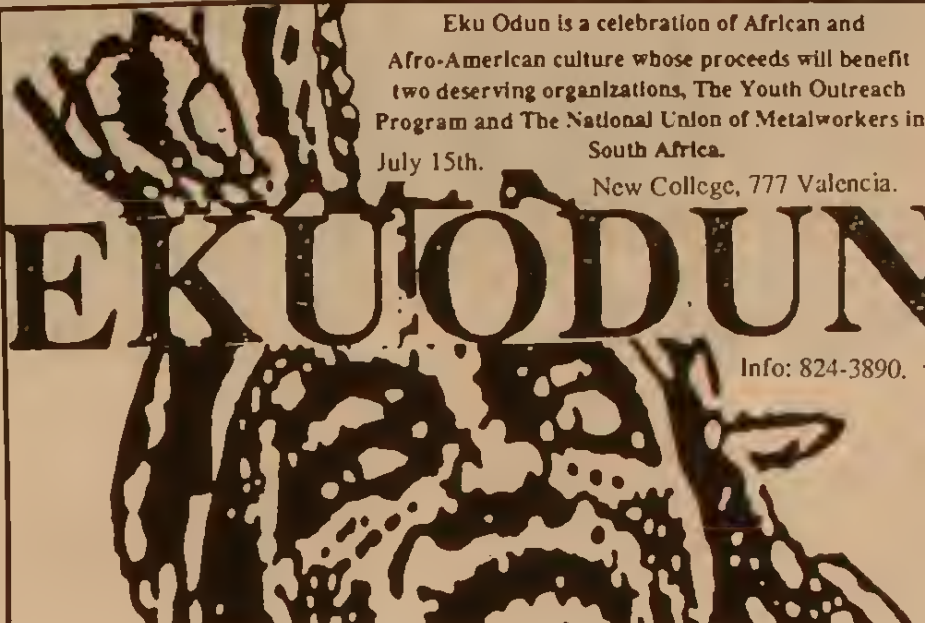
Another Mission organization fighting for the kids is Coleman Youth Advocates whose director, Margaret Brodtkin has been trying to get the police to allocate more officers to youth activities, noting that jobs for kids cost about \$1,500, jails \$27,000. Chief Frank Jordan was reportedly interested, but not committed. A few calls and letters from those interested might help, with a copy to Coleman at 641-4362.

Eku Odun is a celebration of African and Afro-American culture whose proceeds will benefit two deserving organizations, The Youth Outreach Program and The National Union of Metalworkers in South Africa.

July 15th. New College, 777 Valencia.

EKU ODUN

Info: 824-3890.



What a month June was with two league leading teams, Camaval, the Gay Parade and much, much more. And July augurs more of the same. The weekend of the 13th through 16th is Emperor Norton Days at the Civic Center Plaza with rides, games, fun and food for the whole family.

Children will also be the focus of an all-day multi-cultural at the New College 777 Valencia to benefit the Western Addition Youth Outreach and a (black) South African Union. Their spokeswoman promises African, American and African-

Prostic poster-wars? A Hayes Valley improvement group plastered the poles with menacing notices to the hookers and johns, which prompted prostitute education groups to embark on their own counter-programming campaign. Meanwhile at Civic Center, the business groups trying to rid the area of lumpens with flyers stating that even people thinking of criminal activity are being watched. Good trick, if you can do it.

Which brings us to Lyndon LaRouche and his latest complaint that the federal

prosecutor who put him in the slammer used to be the lawyer for the Process Church, a bunch of Devil Cultists seen in the Bay Area twentysomething years ago and reportedly beloved by the likes of Sirhan Sirhan, Son of Sam and good ol' Charlie Manson. A familiar sight in places like the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in their blue Star Trek jumpsuits, cracking their bullwhips and handing out their Satan Loves You literature, what else was really left for these people to do but join the Justice Department. Lighten up, Lyn!

Pigeons on the wing see into the darnedest places like the offices of Domino's Pizza whose wealthy Detroit owner is a major funder of anti-abortion activists "Operation Rescue". Local women's groups are so displeased they've announced a boy(?)cott or perhaps a plea to order a cheese, pepperoni and enat hanger to go. Information 626-5510.

We get mail: disgruntled birds ask why the pigeon always drops on our two daily papers (because they're there, that's why) and asks if there isn't even one mote of intelligence at the Exorcicle.

Well I stand corrected because there is... Chron financial writer John Eckhnuse. Maybe being buried back in the green part with the stock reports has allowed him to escape the Thought Police because his articles are usually factual, painfully-researched and he's not afraid to point the finger at the sewer that the rest of the media calls the garden such as his June 5th article on the fact that the pay of corporate executives is now 55 times greater than that of workers. If positions were assigned on merit, Eckhouse would be given Donald White's job as financial columnist, as it is, he's probably lucky to have a job. Closing thought, courtesy KCBS radio... "I need a place to hide when the world closes in on me and I go to Quayle Lodge in Carmel."

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BATTLE

continued from page-1

addressing a problem — the crack/cocaine epidemic — which is not only complex and rooted in many causes, but which everyone involved agrees has grown totally out-of-hand.

Don Stahlhut, Director of San Francisco Organizing Project, credits a group of determined mothers at VG for hammering out an agreement through months of struggle among the tenants who claim that "outsiders" are the source of the drug-related crime that has terrorized most of the housing project's tenants and torn families apart.

"People are beginning to see the urgent need to take back their neighborhoods," he said. "And SFOP is here to help those tenants consolidate their power and influence so they can have direct control over decision-making that affects their lives."

As a result of SFOP's success at Valencia Gardens — none of it easy and all of it still unfolding — other groups representing public housing tenants throughout the City have sought SFOP's help in forming tenants' associations in their own communities to achieve similar goals.

Bill Eldridge, a VG tenant and member of its Review Committee, says that the issues "aren't peculiar to any one housing development but belong to them all. If you're a tenant, you're a member of the Public Housing Tenants' Association, whether you know it or not," he adds. "The Tenants' Association is the umbrella organization for all public housing tenants so that we can speak with one strong voice, and so the SFHA will have to deal with us as a strong, united force."

"You've heard of the 'conspiracy to destroy Black men', right?" asked Carla Harris of the Hunter's View Public Housing Tenants Organization and mother of two sons. "Well, Black boys grow up to be Black men, if drugs don't get them first and

shorten their lives," she said to a hushed assembly.

In a recent article called "The State of Black America 1989" addressed to the Urban League, Wade Nobles — social psychologist and professor of Black Studies at S.F. State said that "the prevalence of drugs in the Black community, with its concomitant violence, is reducing the quality and quantity of Black life."

"Black men, as drug users and soldiers in inner-city drug wars, are often the front-line victims," Nobles said. "Substance abuse, in relation to the African-American community, can be judged as an instrument of genocide."

Of the 246 units at Valencia Gardens — a public housing complex situated between 14th and 15th, Valencia and Guerrero Streets, with a predominantly Black but

VALENCIA GARDENS

growing Hispanic population — 215 are occupied by families, according to Mr. Jim Williams at district office "C" which oversees and manages the complex.

"There is a conflict of interest among the families," admits Marlene Clyburn whose daughter was almost killed in the crossfire of bullets two years ago. "Some of them like it (the drug trade) because they get money from what their kids sell. But most others would like NOT to be involved... and aren't. But still, their kids see people shooting up and getting raped in stairwells, see guys carrying guns..."

"You've got to get your priorities straight," Clyburn maintains. "Do you want to live safe or have money in your pockets? I'd be broke every day of my life to be safe... to not have to tell my kids to hit the ground and cover their head

if they hear a loud noise or a gunshot... to tell them that they can't walk outside their own homes..."

There is something fierce in Clyburn's voice when she asserts that she knows that she and the other parents on the Review Committee are "fighting for what's right so my kids and ALL kids can live safe... because they are our future." She adds that "working together, all parents here at VG can change things so our kids can live more safely and at least have a chance to grow up."

It seems a crime in itself that families such as Marlene Clyburn's and Carla Harris' must so often choose between "living safe and having money in our pockets". The socio-economic system in America seems to have failed a sizeable segment of Black Americans who are shut



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out of traditional means of earning a decent living wage available to other racial groups.

Yet Black poet Michael Salaam, in a June article in *The Metro Reporter* cautions:

"... Undeniably, poverty and unemployment and racism do play a significant role in our plight here in America. But these obstacles are no excuse to abandon morality, pride and dignity... The ordeal of the 'chemical warfare' (the crack/cocaine epidemic) is so out-of-control that African-American leadership must aggressively move to re-establish the self-help attitude and the work ethic, along with a conscious moral discipline, or we as a people will perish from our own sad self-neglect..."

There is no question that what Clyburn, Eldridge, Williams, Harris and scores of other tenants at public housing projects across the City are trying to do is to achieve power over their lives at a time when many others think that being "powerful" — variously interpreted as being "cool" or "bad" — comes from being a drug-dealer or a "wanna-be".

True empowerment, as these women and men are showing, arises from being able to make choices in controlling their own destinies, even when it appears as though there are only difficult choices, even when it seems that life offers you nothing but apparent dead ends.

But as one speaker at the assembly put it: "... What could be a dead end than dealing drugs... where either the bullet, or the cops, or the drug itself gets you — and it always does — in the end? Cuts you down before you're 16, 21, 30?..."

904 young Black men out of 100,000 were victims of homicide between 1984-1986, according to the Urban League's

Male Responsibility Program. That's one out of every 100 Black men in America killed in drug-related crime. And the numbers are only getting higher.

Clyburn, Eldridge, Williams, Harris and lots of others think that's way too high a price to pay for the very questionable value of being involved with drugs. That's why they've organized themselves where they feel the most threatened — and where they feel the most need to protect: in their homes. Local leadership is emerging from their ranks to challenge the deadly legacy of a drug culture that robs Black families of youth in their prime.

These brave men and women know there are many others like them in the public housing projects — parents and single folks, angry at the upheaval in their lives caused by the drug-dealing, and frustrated at the slow or ineffectual response of local police and other government agencies. They know that you have to get beyond the first step of saying: "... this has got to stop before it slowly kills us..." before taking the second step of acting on the righteous impulse to live a life free of the tyranny of drugs. They know too the difficulties and fears involved in taking these steps.

But that is what these courageous, pioneering men and women at Valencia Gardens have done through their Review Committee. They have demonstrated the power of transforming negative energy into positive energy, and the power of bringing together the many people who need to be heard with the any more who need to listen... City Hall, Mission Station, the Housing Authority, the various social service agencies... and their neighbor, whose 12-year old is being conned into walking to the car with the drug hidden on his body...

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COMIC BOOK CONFIDENTIAL

by Brian Doohan

"One of the appealing things about children," states a decency crusader from the 1950s in the documentary "Comic Book Confidential" now at the Roxie "is that they have not yet come to the age where reality and unreality are divorced."

Anti-comic activists today might have cause to question the reasoning capacity of adults. On the big screen, Batman battles crime and rakes in the dollars, following the spoor of comic-influenced superstars like Indiana Jones and Roger Rabbit. Cash registers are ringing and lines forming outside New York and San Francisco galleries that take cartoon art very very seriously. Speculators have made vintage comics a more profitable investment than junk bonds. Adults whose own dog-eared collections were destroyed by angry parents in the 50s and 60s are hauling their own kids' reading materials away... to vaults where climate control can better preserve their resale value.

The most implacable foe of comics, Dr. Frederick Werthem, predicted that the medium would raise "a generation of 1/2 storm troopers and 1/2 cannon fodder." But the reality is one of half dreamer/half schemer consumers who, according to Ron Turner of Last Gasp distributors, one of the Mission's more thriving businesses, frequently buy two copies of their favorite rag... one to read and one to salt away as a potential investment.

Holy Bank Account!

In "Comic Book Confidential", director Ron Mann boiled down over sixty hours of interviews to a series of twenty two "talking heads", judiciously leavened with archival footage and collage and depictions of the artists' work. The documentary takes a more or less chronological progression from the ap-

pearance of comic books in the thirties through the propaganda of the war years, the graphic horror of the early 50's and subsequent reactionary sleep until the emergence of the "underground" in the late 60s and 70s and the present technologically advanced and trendy publications like RAW magazine.

Three eras are particularly emphasized;



A COMIC BOOK BURNING IN THE 1950's

the present, the "underground" years and the early 50s. William Gaines, publisher of Mad Magazine and a number of graphic, now classic, horror comics of the 50s remembers this latter period as "a reaction to the bomb," and defended America's right-to-shock before a Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, while asserting that "we figured we could out-gore anybody and we did."

But prudence... or prudery... shackled Gaines and contemporaries Will Eisner, Al Feldstein, Harvey Kurtzman and others not in the film to the Comic Association Code and its legion of trench coated and black

shoed censors who imposed a Mickey Mouse morality upon the medium.

In the film's next major era, not only the taboos but even Mickey himself was overthrown by revolutionaries many of whom were (and still are) from the Bay Area.

Mann includes a number of former and current Bay Area artists in this section including Robert Crumb, Bill Griffith,

ego Zippy as "a part of me who went astray in the early '70s", Crumb regurgitates the alienating vistas of drawing greeting cards in Cleveland and Gilbert Shelton (who in a recent Mission visit hinted that Fat Freddy Freak may soon replace William Bennett as Drug Czar) sums up: "the only things worthwhile today are friendship and real estate".

Like modern society, much of the best "modern" comic art contrasts the expensive yet empty realms of life's winners and the anger and despair of those left behind. Frank Miller's "Dark Knight" books of the mid-80s allegedly contributed to the darker tones of the present Batman movie. Sue Coe, author of "X" and "How To Commit Suicide In South Africa" recites the smuggling of the latter work onto a South African death row. But Art Spiegelman, publisher of Coe's works and author of the acclaimed, Holocaust-inspired "Maus" also churns out profitable cultural artifacts like Garbage Pail Kids and publications which, at their worst, exploit the commercial angst and obsessions of middle-class Bohemia.

"We have to discover new processes to keep ourselves interested," whines Spiegelman's co-editor Francoise Mouly.

"Comic Book Confidential" has gathered guardedly favorable reviews from those best qualified to stop and smell the ink... artists themselves, many of whom gathered to kick the movie off at the Adobe Cafe down the street from the Roxie on June 28.

Mission residents Spain and Mavrides (a member in good standing in the Church of the Subgenius who also edited the posters that are being pulled off of telephone poles all over the Mission to decorate people's apartments) feel that the documentary will be most valuable as an introduction to the medium. "(Mann) took

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on a large task in presenting the history of comics," adds Spain, whose Trashman encounters Ronald Reagan's graverobbers in Zap #12, recently published by Last Gasp.

Ron Turner (whose Last Gasp has been in the Mission for 15 years, employs 18 more-or-less nice people and sends thousands of its own and other publishers' comics all over the world every month) notes that the traditionally up-and-down comics industry is approaching another of its periodic crests. "It's definitely a comic book summer," he promised the News.

Not only is Batmania driving old and new readers back into the comic book shops but the undergrounds are experiencing one of their more periodic revivals. Two thousand New Yorkers lined up recently for a showing of art from Zap #12, whose contributors include Crumb, Spain and Moscoso as well as the indelicate S. Clay Wilson. And a measure of social consciousness is evident by the success of such ventures as Strip AIDS USA which, according to Turner, has raised eleven thousand dollars for victims of the disease.

The business, Mavrides notes, "lurches along" but even in this up-cycle is not devoid of dark, menacing shadows. "Many distributors are consolidating," he believes, "they haven't been taken over by non-comic corporations yet but outlets are shrinking."

Other problems are internal. Trina Rob-



bins, the Mission artist who worked on the AIDS project but wound up a face on the cutting room floor of "Comic Book Confidential" points out the underrepresentation of women both above and underground (in the film it's only 4 of 22) and the hegemony of superheroes with their jutting jaws, funny clothes, strange powers and/or expensive gadgets. "Batman is going to sell a lot of Batmerchandise," she believes, but questions how much will trickle down to the grass roots.

These roots will thrive or wither on the

talents and perseverance of the next generation of comic artists. Perhaps the greatest virtue of "Comic Book Confidential" is its sense of history or, as Turner puts it "some of the people were there at the beginning, some will be doing things in fifty years." One of the latter, he believes, is Carol Tyler of Sacramento, winner of the Tona Award in memory of the late Dori Seda (see NMN 8/88).

Spain cites locals Phoebe Gluckner and Steve Laffer, late of the late Deadbeat, as artists to keep an eye (and wallet) out for

while Mavrides is a fan of Chester Brown, author of "Yummy Fur". But the comic artist most frequently hailed by her contemporaries is Krystine Kryture who has appeared in several Last Gasp anthologies and, who knows, may be called on to do a movie someday.

But until then we'll have to make do with "Batman" for spectacle and "Comic Book Confidential" for just the facts, ma'am, and with the many, diverse con-jurations of local comic artists for day to day commentary. "We've survived a slow period and stuck with it," Spain recalls, "and now we seem to be coming out of it."

An underground breaking through into the pitiless sunlight? Holy Retin-A!

For showtimes and info on Comic Book Confidential, call the Roxie 863-1087 through July 11th. Batman is at various theatres and an exhibition of BatArt can be seen at the Comic Art Museum, 665 Third Street through August 19th. The artists mentioned and many more are available at the San Francisco Comic Book Co., 3335 23rd Street off Mission.



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LATINAS AND AIDS

by Betsy Randolph

Where can Latinos/as go to understand and talk about AIDS? Somewhere where language and stereotypes are not barriers? Social worker Beatrice Pestana and I talked about bilingual/bicultural AIDS services at the Mission district office of Mano a Mano. For Latino men and women diagnosed with AIDS, or close to someone with the virus, Mano a Mano may be a welcome house to enter.

Mano a Mano ("Hand to Hand") began in 1986 as a research project, funded by a state grant, to assess the needs and the barriers to services for Latinos/as "living with AIDS/ARC". It sought to find out why, for example, Latinos with AIDS are usually diagnosed so late. A staff with bilingual/bicultural training, it was concluded, was a primary importance to serving Latino AIDS clients.

For the past year Mano a Mano, with its staff of five, has been providing "direct (social) services", i.e. AIDS case management and counseling, to Latino/as diagnosed with AIDS as well as their families, friends and lovers. The Mano a Mano Project and the Latino AIDS Project, which focuses on AIDS education and prevention, together form the "AIDS component" of El Instituto Familiar de la Raza, the parent organization located at 2515 24th Street. The Instituto is a privately funded mental health program serving the Latino community of San Francisco since 1981.

The services at Mano a Mano include: assistance in obtaining social/welfare benefits, legal assistance to clients who are "undocumented", "spiritual support within a cultural framework", counseling and support groups. Mano a Mano also maintains close contact with Ward 5A (the AIDS ward) at San Francisco General, and networks with public health nurses, the Visiting Nurses' Association and the Shanti Project.

The Mano a Mano and Latino Aids Projects work together. For instance, three support groups (with one more on the way) are each facilitated by a staff member from each office. There is a support group for HIV+ men, one for HIV+ women and another for women who are the wives, mothers, lovers and friends of persons living with AIDS. The latter is run by Beatrice Pestana of Mano a Mano and Carmen Chavez of the Latino AIDS Project.

A year ago there was "nothing for Latinas" in terms of AIDS support services, says Pestana. Meanwhile the strong family response to illness in Latino culture meant that many Latinas — mothers, wives, friends and lovers — were being affected by the disease.

Some women from Central and South America would drop everything and leave their countries in order to be with their sons/loved ones who are dying. The combined effect of culture shock, language barriers and the shock of the disease itself is an overwhelming experience. One woman, recalls Pestana, came to the States from Cuba to see her son in the hospital — but it was three weeks before she found anyone to talk to here.

Last July, Chavez and Pestana responded to the lack of culturally sensitive services for Latinas dealing with AIDS by forming

issues around AIDS have cultural specificity for Latinas.

There is a tremendous "AIDS stigma" within Latino culture that involves ignorance/misinformation about AIDS (such as how it can and cannot be contracted), fear of rejection and homophobia. Interestingly many Latinos who are diagnosed do not identify themselves as gay or bisexual. They may have male to male sexual encounters but lead an otherwise "straight" lifestyle with a wife and children which, in turn, creates a "hidden risk" for such families.

son's gayness and his illness at the same time.

The difficulty of coping with and talking about AIDS is compounded for immigrant Latinas. The cultural, language and legal issues take time and energy enough as it is.

Part of Mano a Mano's work is also to sensitize the medical community to cultural issues. "Breaking the news" of an AIDS diagnosis requires more than a Spanish phrase book; a blunt explanation can have devastating effects. On the whole Pestana has found doctors and nurses receptive to learning about cultural sensitivity. For Pestana, health education includes not only translating English to Spanish, but also translating medical terminology to lay language.

Since Latinas (like women in most cultures) are traditionally expected to be the main caregivers, burnout is another big issue in the group. "No one asks them how they feel," says Pestana, who tries to emphasize how important it is that "they also take care of themselves". The drawn-out process of living and dying with AIDS makes it a long haul for these women, as well as for the staff who also pay attention to "taking care of the caregivers" by meeting among themselves outside the office for support.

The women's support group is very much a learning experience, "from us to them and them to us," observes Pestana. They go through pain, loss and death with each other — and they also experience joy and celebrating together. It sometimes feels like "extended family", admits Pestana.

Effectively, the group's purpose is twofold: to discuss issues relating to AIDS and to discuss issues relating to women. Pestana and Chavez hope to educate and empower these women so that, ultimately, they themselves become educators in their own homes and communities.

Those interested in participating in Mano a Mano's support group for Latinas may contact Beatrice Pestana at 647-6672, or Carmen Chavez at 647-5450. The Mano a Mano Project is located at 3490 20th Street.

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the support group for women. The group, which is a joint effort of Mano a Mano and the Bilingual/Multicultural Services Project of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, is held in Spanish every Tuesday from 6-8 PM at Mano a Mano.

Chavez and Pestana aim to provide a "safe environment" for Latinas to talk about AIDS. It is an opportunity to meet other Latinas, share information and ask questions without embarrassment. Also, it is a place "where we can talk about our own phobias", explains Pestana. Here, "every woman is validated... her language, her culture and her experience are understood."

Pestana, who came to the States 9 1/2 years ago from Venezuela, finds herself acting as social worker, AIDS counselor, health educator and even extended family to the women in the group. Many of the

While open expression of emotions and feelings is a "part of Latino culture and always has been", points out Pestana, open discussion of sex and sexuality is not. Many of the women in the group need to develop a "confianza" or trust within the group before they can broach the topic of sex. Pestana tries to provide information (the "basis" of AIDS, what is "safe sex" etc.) while facilitating communication when, for example, a mother is trying to cope with her

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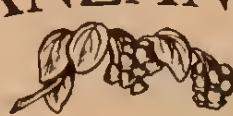
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THE VIDEO VISION OF BEN BRITTON

by Mario Joel

Here we are with Ben Britton, video filmmaker who lives in the Mission; he experiments with artistic concepts and the visual resources of the TV. In the past he has worked with short stories in an experimental form. He made a great advancement in artistic technique making "The Fruit of Chardin". It is a complete experience of life, made in collaboration with a group of technical artist friends from Boston who are part of a movement which in 1982 became known as "Subterranean Video" (SVID).

"... the expressions of everyday people, people as individuals, expressing their colorful ideas, as participants of a society." This made the members of SVID commit themselves to the expansion of media consciousness through experimentation with television. Using mass media with conscience, made with true experimentation, fed by itself through its own sources and resources like television, they achieve a new level of communication concepts between individuals of the community.

"In one way or another, television can produce changes in people's mentalities, and these changes can be brought about by the direct participation of new people."

This was how the transformation of SVID was developed into a mature form. I realize that, as director of my own films, I take responsibility for creating fantasy that corresponds in some way with reality. Then, the public has an opportunity to subjectively express themselves in the real world."

In order to film a technical spectacle of "high fidelity", the director got himself involved with one aspect of history with roots in the subculture of the mass media in America. "I want people to take time to understand each other. To speak in this way is a very important thing. What I'm talking about, for now and in the future, is cooperation and consideration. In our rapidly changing world we can survive with clear awareness of how our lives and

actions relate to the future of humanity."

It was a great accumulation of experiences that were realized in the short political film "Without Soul". It deals with an in-depth analysis of the efforts of a group of guerrillas that try to provoke quick changes in society through terrorist actions. The story in its development clarifies that, although they are easy to perform, such destructive acts only produce panic, social chaos and institutionalized repression. The movie watches itself develop from one moment to another, the conception of the creation is a recursive techno-performance, and the characters strip themselves of their marginal psychology in the desperation of lives without social horizons. The director's imagination touches us in a very sensitive manner, not offering us implicit solution, but guiding us to consider ourselves as the outcome and products of our own efforts.

Ben has a program every Wednesday at 3:30 PM on cable channel 25. His show is directed toward the audience, looking for new ways to speak with the world, not simply exercises in television technique or entertainment. But his humor is an element of change for people, because television is an instrument of communication and source for the expansion of understanding. Ben, with his tongue planted resolutely in his cheek, proposes to communicate one to another, to be able to consolidate better solutions that give us a better life where we have better opportunities, and where there are none of the present limitations to making a better society: This is the beautiful message of the director-producer who, in this real way, is tied in with our community.

To finalize, Ben expressed "My sculpture with a touchscreen television is being exhibited in Boston and San Francisco, and this is proof of my best efforts to dedicate creative work to serve the public with new social visions."

For more information, please call Ben Britton at (415) 695-8732.

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VISION OF VIOLENCE



Bill Gentile: Young prostitute waits for customers from nearby U.S. military base, Comayagua, Honduras, 1986.

CONFLICT IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

The two photo exhibitions running through July 30th at the Mission Cultural Center (2868 Mission at 25th) exemplify photojournalism at its best. Unnerving, powerful images of men and women pushed to the edge (and beyond) by the savagery of war and the brutality of political oppression are presented with a lucidity that is both disturbing and compelling.

Photographer Bill Gentile's selection for his new book "Nicaragua" is a widely ranging documentation of the conflict in that country, detailing graphically the life and death struggles of Contras, Sandinistas and those caught in between. The images range from the horrific ("Dead Contra") to the bizarre, a uniformed Contra baseball team looking like the New York Yankees except carrying rifles instead of bats.

A richness of color and a supremely

professional eye for composition combine with the subject matter to create, at times, a frightening beauty in these photographs.

The larger show, running concurrently with Gentile's work, consists of the collective work of some 37 photographers covering three of the world's most dangerous and volatile locations; South Africa, the Middle East and Central America.

This exhibition captures the explosiveness of global conflict in a series of more than 100 frozen moments in time that depict, in painful detail, the tragedy of life in one of the world's free fire zones. It is not a show for the faint of heart or the politically apathetic.

It is highly recommended for anyone who wants an uncensored look at the violence of contemporary history.



Gill de Vlieg: Archbishop Desmond Tutu addresses the funeral of unrest victims, Kwathema, July, 1985.

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--by John Elliott

VISION OF A GREEN CITY

Imagine picking fruit off trees along the 22 Fillmore line, or watching the egrets land on a pond in Dolores Park. So envision the authors of "A Green City Program for San Francisco Bay Area Cities and Towns." As San Francisco grows and grays, these folks are dreaming of a "Green" Bay Area in which grass replaces asphalt and long-forgotten creeks rise from the storm sewers to once again wind through the city.

The creators of this quixotic vision—Peter Berg, Beryl Magilavy, and Seth Zuckerman—are associated with the Planet Drum Foundation, an international environmental group dedicated to Green City action. Mr. Berg, the director of the foundation, will be hosting a book party at the Modern Times Bookstore (968 Valencia) on July 26 at 7:30. The group's goal, as outlined in the book, is to make San Francisco a self-sustaining, regenerative, and life-enhancing urban area.

It's an appealing vision, undeniably, but a vision without a prescription, a destination without a path. Although the book provides recommendations for city action, the proposals are generally unrealistic, failing to consider the larger context of an entrenched municipal bureaucracy constrained by more immediate problems.

The book is largely the output of a series of Green City meetings, held in 1986 at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center. Over 150 representatives from environmental groups, private business, government, and concerned households attended seminars devoted to a broad range of topics falling under the "Green" umbrella. Each seminar evolved into a one of the book's nine chapters.

Each chapter begins with a description of the current situation and its problems—"The way things are now"—then continues by outlining the alternatives to current situation and the short and long-term benefits of pursuing the alternative.

The heart of each chapter comes in the section—"What can cities do to promote [the alternative]"—in which the authors outline proposals for the municipal action. In general, these proposals are wishful and impractical, the type of advice that bounces

off government officials without making a dent. Many recommendations require city funding (for "urban revegetation, demolition of buildings in ecologically sensitive areas, and "small business incubators") or the creation of new municipal committees (Sustainable Planning Staff, Neighborhood Design Review Board, and a Department of Natural Life).

Taken by themselves, the proposals are hard to dispute, because they support worthy causes. The authors ask rhetorically, "How can they [the politicians] explain *not* endorsing a Green City?" Of course, every sane politician will support a "Green City"

in that it generates rather than depletes funds, and makes environmental sense in that it equates the private cost of operating a vehicle with its social cost. Other more reasonable recommendations include a ban on certain materials (such as foam packaging, as was done in L.A.) and a modification of the garbage removal fee structure from a flat rate to a per pound basis. Also valuable are the few recommendations aimed at individuals rather than the government.

The end of each chapter offers a fable and a "what's possible" section, which fantasize of the ideal Green World where both private citizens and city officials have the

or the landlord (who usually doesn't pay utility costs) to undertake such a project.

Another fable is set in the North Mission. Jesús Ruiz discovers that there used to be a lake at Dolores Park, with a creek flowing down 18th Street, a creek which now flows through the storm sewers. With the support of neighbors and the assistance of the Water Department, the Ruiz family manages to bring a pond (egret-filled, of course) to the park, and works to turn 18th street into a creek. Once again, it's a pleasant idea that ignores practical concerns. In addition to funding obstacles, it is doubtful our storm sewer water is suitable to fill such a pond. Perhaps Jesús should work to clean the

water supply before using it to fill a pond. Before reclaiming the environment from urbanization, we must arrest the process of pollution and ecological deterioration.

Despite their impracticalities, many of the fables concentrate appropriately on the individual, rather than the city, as the agent of environmental reform. Green movements around the world owe their success to people power and bottom-up organization. The authors recognize this in their conclusion: "Most importantly, you can restructure your own life to further Green City goals." Further, they include an extensive list of grass-roots organizations through which people can promote a range of environmental action.

Yet throughout most of the book, the authors focus the City, not its people, as the vehicle of environmental action. While some private citizens might be eager for the Green City message, government officials will toss this book into their big pile of special interest agendas. As long as San Franciscans die daily from AIDS and crack, it will be difficult to get the City to shed tears over the disappearance of the Mission Blue Butterfly.

The work of the mystic, the scientist, the artist and the philosopher together may do something they could never achieve separately.

DAVID BOHM



in rhetoric, but the same politician can in practice neglect specific proposals with this ubiquitous response: "It's a question of priorities" (witness George Bush proclaiming himself an environmentalist during the election, despite a consistent record of environmental plundering). In San Francisco, officials will point to a city budget strained by AIDS and crack as they pass over environmental legislation.

More practical are proposals through which the city can promote a Green City without sacrificing its commitment to these more pressing issues. In the "Smart Transportation" chapter, the authors recommend a gas tax. A gas tax makes budgetary sense

time, money, and will to devote to the regeneration of the environment. The aptly named fables, though entertaining, reflect the authors' focus on vision over prescription.

In the chapter on Renewable Energy, the fable describes Jediah Washington, who gets together with neighbors to insulate their flats and apartments. The city pays for people to demonstrate proper weatherstripping techniques, and soon the entire neighborhood is well insulated. Granted, insulation is a good idea, but in a city of mostly rented residential units, there is no incentive for either the short-term renter (who is reluctant to make long-term improvements)

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system down".

The dinner menu also includes, among other choices, the Monk's food" vegetarian recipe "specially prepared by the Buddhist monks in the hinterlands of Korea". All of the recipes on the menu were carefully chosen by Jong to best represent the most popular dishes from all over Korea so that

his customers may get a better idea of just what the Koreans enjoy most.

Korean Cabin is open Tuesdays through Sundays (closed Mondays). Lunch is served from 11 AM to 5 PM and dinner from 5 PM until 11 PM. Korean Cabin is located at 2170 Mission Street between 17th and 18th Streets, and can be reached at 626-6236.

relax over a nice cup of cappuccino. Carlos wants Dumont to be a major contributor to the tide of growing spirit which is sweeping the Mission - a place where people of all colors, religions, nationalities and opinions can congregate and communicate in a tranquil surrounding like Dumont Liquors.

The North Mission News and myself

would like to congratulate Carlos and Maria Elena for their recent acceptance of the Model Business Award given by the North Mission Association.

Dumont Liquors is located at 3020 16th Street at Mission and is open from 7-10 daily with 9-9 hours on the weekends.



Jong Kim welcomes you to the Korean Cabin.

DUMONT'S



Carlos and Maria Elena Martínez receive the Model Business Award from Robert Cole of the North Mission Association.

Since 1956, Dumont Liquors has been at 16th and Mission. Back then, Dumont was under Italian ownership and sold only alcohol. Booze and nothing but booze. But, as time wore on and the neighborhood's needs began to change, Dumont's owners decided to add a sandwich deli to their liquor store. When ownership had changed a few years later, Koreans had added a small grocery section.

But by the time the young Martinez couple, Carlos and Maria Elena, had taken over ownership in 1987, the 16th and Mission area had fallen on harder times and Dumont had fallen prey to a less than desirable clientele: winos, prostitutes and street people were loitering around the storefront soliciting change from passersby in order to buy the next bottle of Thunderbird, Night Train and other preferred brands.

Drug pushers used Dumont as a trafficking hideout and center of business due to its proximity to the notorious drug-ridden BART station. Pushers and their clients came into Dumont under the thin guise of purchasing something and then exit without bothering to buy anything. Carlos' angry stares and cautioning words were met by icy cold glares that defiantly dared Carlos to do something about it. When he did try to chase pushers from his neighborhood store, his attempts were met with threats of violence to his store, himself and his family.

Fed up with the situation at hand, Carlos began to make a series of small changes which would, over the course of time, change the face of his store. As more and more money came in from the sales of cheap

liquor, Carlos began buying more and more of the higher quality, more expensive premium wines and therefore could begin to take the cheaper ones from his shelves. And with the advent of coffee bean sales, Dumont began to draw an increasingly more "attractive" clientele.

Before long, the winos could no longer find their favorite fixes among the rows of California chardonnays and cabernets. Likewise, the pushers and dopsters found Dumont's increasingly upscale visibility an undesirable attribute in their business dealings. Rid of the street vermin which had plagued their store and their lives, Carlos and Maria Elena could begin to concentrate better on the task at hand: offering the family and friends of the Mission quality foods and liquor and the best customer service possible.

The next step was an obvious one - to expand their small shop to better meet the needs and desires of the community. Dumont has recently finished a vast remodeling which took the better part of spring to complete and now features liquor and beer sales; groceries; a full deli-counter complete with fresh and delicious salads, sandwiches and nicatamales (Nicaraguan-style tamales); thirty-two choices of coffee beans which includes a hearty espresso blend from S.F. Coffee Co. up on 24th Street, and the latest addition of Mitchell's ice cream (of San Jose Avenue fame).

Carlos and Maria Elena are not quite finished yet however. The two plan to further expand the seating capacity and the coffee selections which highlight the front of the store so that neighbors can sit and

Photo by Fumimori Sato

Photo by Fumimori Sato

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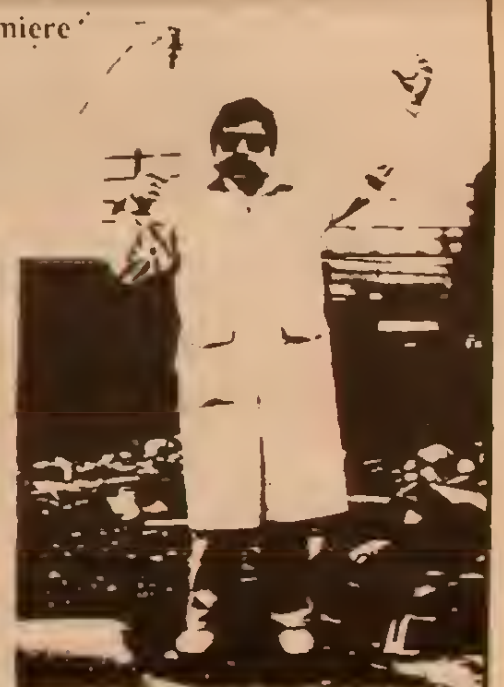
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TENANT TIMES

Volume X, No. 3

Newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union

July-August 1989

One Family's Experience

I have lived in San Francisco as a renter all my adult life. Being a single parent I was able to put my daughter through state college but never could save enough for a down payment on property. Nor could I even qualify as a home buyer as real estate values in the city constantly exceeded the level of my income. So I have been forced to live at the whim of the landlords, having to move every 5-7 years as each owner would succumb to the lure of inflated property values, selling my home out from under me.

My experiences as a renter taught me not to ask for repairs and improvements because these costs are invariably passed on as "rent increases". For the past six years I lived in a house in the Sunnyside District. After suffering through leaking roofs (which the owners refused to repair), rampaging dry rot, non-functioning windows, etc., my water heater quit functioning. My landlords said they would not repair or replace it and that I should move out. That's when I joined the Tenants Union and learned for the first time that renters do have some rights.

After following the procedure outlined in CCC 1942, I purchased a new hot water heater. There ensued a year of illegaleviction attempts and a program of harassment which included telephone threats, daily unannounced visits to my home during which my landlords destroyed and removed both my front and back gardens, cemented my mailbox shut and solicited signed statements against me from my neighbors. It was a nightmare. But, because of the support and encouragement I received from the Tenants Union, my friends and neighbors, I was able to hang on.

Subsequent events included complete inspections by the SF Departments of Health, Plumbing and Building, which found the property to be "substandard" and ordered the landlords to make necessary repairs. And still the harassment continued.

The Tenderloin Housing Clinic took a special interest in my case and put me in touch with the Lawyers' Committee for Urban Affairs, where my case was taken pro bono. To make a long story short, the landlords eventually sold the property and I took them to court, winning a nice settlement just last month.

Being a housepainter, I often encounter "slumlord" situations where tenants who do not know their rights endure substandard conditions. I want to help—where do I start?

In my opinion, renting property is a business, and as such landlords should be licensed and should have to pass annual inspections before their licenses are renewed. They should also be made to pass a test on the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants. Along with rent control laws, this could raise the quality of life for the hardest working segment of our population.

Basic repairs should be tax deductible. Restrictions on who can rent should not be allowed. No tenant should be denied the right to have companion pets—damage deposits could be reassessed at "inspection" time. Interest on rent and damage deposits should be paid annually to the tenant. Evictions should not be allowed except in cases of law violations...I could go on.

By Anne Hudgins

VC Plan Finally Ready

Vacancy Control—Will the Tortoise Win Again?

The never-ending search for the tenants' version of the Holy Grail—vacancy control—is entering its latest and perhaps, most mystifying phase to date. As we go to press, a long-delayed secretly approved draft is being readied for public unveiling at a press conference within the week. According to those few tenant activists who have seen it, the Agnos/Britt version provides for rent increases of 1% to 2% for each year the former tenant(s) had lived in the unit. A cap of an unknown amount will presumably prevent increases from defeating the whole idea of vacancy control. This vacancy bonus is in addition to any other allowable rent increases (banked annual increases since 1982 and a "regular" 4%). The law will be enforced (?) by a landlord-disclosure requirement.

According to unreliable sources, the long-awaited public hearing on vacancy control before the Supervisors' Land Use Committee will take place at the end of July. If all goes to plan, the full Board will approve the measure in early of mid-August, and the Mayor will sign off immediately thereafter. Theoretically, Vacancy control could take effect by mid-September. But there is a catch or two which may delay this for nearly a full year.

First off, there is no guarantee that the necessary six votes on the Board will come through on this one. The most solid YES votes include Alioto, Britt, Nelder, Walker, Ward. The most solid NO votes are Hsieh and Maher. Neither Hallinan nor Hongisto can vote due to conflicts of interest. Of the remaining supervisors, Kennedy should vote YES, Gonzalez NO, however these two swingers could go either way. As is usually the case when

this issue comes up, the decisive factor is whether or not the real estate's big money will win the day over the tenant majority voting bloc. Up to now, Gonzalez has sided with landlords; Kennedy with tenants. Both are up for grabs, and lobbying efforts will focus on these two minority leaders. The irony, of course, is that the hispanic and black communities are most vulnerable to gentrification due to spiralling housing costs. To side with real estate money threatens the very existence of their voting bases.

The second catch in finally winning vacancy control comes into play if it passes the Board and gets signed by Mayor Agnos. The landlords are ready to hit the streets with a petition calling for a referendum on the issue. If they gather 18,000 + valid signatures of registered voters, vacancy control will be placed on the June, 1990 ballot. Now

Cont. on Page 3

TU Members Say No to Agnos

If the mayoral election were held today, less than half of the Tenants Union members would vote to re-elect Mayor Art Agnos, despite the fact that 84 percent of the members voted for him in 1987. This is one of the results of the TU's 1989 membership survey, and reflect the growing disenchantment within the tenant movement over Agnos's failure to enact vacancy control—an issue he campaigned on. (88 percent of TU members

Cont. to Page 3

SF's Secret Housing Plan

On June 28th, as the *Times* was going to press, the City Redevelopment and Planning Commission heard testimony on the proposed "Affordable Housing Action Plan for San Francisco".

At the request of Mayor Agnos, the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) will be soliciting public comments on the draft Plan before issuance of a final report and possible legislative action.

In a presentation to the San Francisco Housing and Tenants' Council, HAC staffer Tom Jones pitched the plan as potentially adding millions of dollars to an affordable housing fund and downplayed the exclusion of neighborhood and tenant representation on the Committee.

He distributed a summary of the draft Plan which concluded much of which any renter already knows: that only 30% of SF households could afford to rent a two bedroom apartment if they had to move, that only 5% could afford to buy a home, that about 6,000 homeless (other estimates reach up to twice that number) cost the City 50 million dollars yearly without creating one unit of affordable housing and that earthquake hazards, public housing neglect, expiration of Federal bonds and other factors cause a continued loss of affordable units at a time when substantial gains are needed just to stay in place.

Most of HAC's recommendations encourage the usual bureaucratic shuffling that, at best, allows the authorities a better view as the situation slips from disrepair to out and out disaster. Perhaps the most specific of these is the establishment of a Housing Coordinating Group under the direction of the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Neighborhoods. This umbrella group includes representatives of the Mayor, Planning Department, Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, Bureau of Building Inspection and City Attorney but *not* the Rent Board, at which level the immediate housing crisis is most painfully visible.

The element that renters will find most interest-

ing is a proposal to raise \$50 million for affordable housing with more than half coming from an increase in the Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Jones depicts this program as innovative, stating that its burden would fall most heavily on the speculators who have driven up the cost of housing. He emphasized that the tightly controlled HAC was able to arrive at this consensus by assuring its real-estate industry members that more housing will lead to more sales (and more commissions).

But this consensus may have a yet-unknown price as members reach their judgements on condo conversions, in-law legalization and other complex issues.

HAC's 26 members include government officials, for-profit and non-profit developers, realtors and their lobbyists, attorneys and religious charities. Jones explicitly stated that exclusion of tenant advocates help the consensus process and feels that the interests of renters will be served at the hearing and by extension of the deadline for

Cont. to Page 3

Plan to Increase Condo Conversions

Tenants beware: the Coalition For Better Housing, the landlord-realtor political group, is gathering signatures to place on the ballot a proposal which would immediately quadruple the number of condominium conversions allowed, and which would effectively end all restrictions by 1993.

This proposal, craftily labelled the 'Tenant Ownership Program,' is worded as if it may be a pro-tenant proposal and its actual impact of ending restrictions on conversions is hidden in the

Cont. to Page 3



Living Lightly

This month Living Lightly offers a few tips on how to avoid "Heavy" roommate situations. Counselors at the Tenants Union are stymied by problems between roommates. As advocates for tenants, we are fundamentally opposed to evictions. We recognize that serious situations do occur between roommates, such as abuse or other criminal acts. The question we face is what other action can be taken besides eviction.

Living Lightly would like to suggest preventive action. Spending time choosing the right roommate can avoid so many problems. My experience with seniors in San Francisco has taught me that developing good roommate choosing skills can benefit you for a lifetime. Here are my suggestions: 1) Be choosy—know what you want and need in a roommate; 2) Be honest—both with yourself and the potential roommate; 3) Be logical—the bottom line is whether that potential roommate can pay their fair share of the bills; and, 4) Trust your survival instincts—even if it means hacking out at the last minute—do it. You will never regret listening to your inner voice.

Living Lightly will be coming out with a move-in packet for tenants soon. It will include a list of questions to ask potential roommates. If you're interested in a copy, let us know and we'll speed up production. In the meantime here are two questions you should always ask a potential roommate: 1) What is your typical day like, and, 3) What is your favorite flavor of ice cream.

One aspect of "living lightly" is to be aware of ways in which some of the products you may buy for use in your home—from food to various

household items—may be impacting the lives of others, either economically or healthwise. Many organizations have targeted certain goods or companies to be boycotted—in the hope that consumer pressure will force these companies to change how these goods are produced.

The United Farmworkers, of course, is actively promoting its boycott of California table grapes. The UFW is demanding that the corporate farmers stop using five specific pesticides which growers commonly use (often immediately prior to workers entering the fields) despite the availability of safer options and the rising numbers of deaths, miscarriages, and deformities in children among farmworkers and people who live in the communities in the farming areas.

Another boycott is of Shell Oil, which is one of the major corporate powers in racist South Africa. Despite pressure from groups such as the National Union of Mineworkers, the Free South Africa Movement, World Council of Churches, AFL-CIO, National Organization of Women and the NAACP, Shell refuses to stop supplying fuel to South Africa's military and police. To increase pressure, boycott of all Shell products is being promoted. Shell sells many items besides automotive products, under many different names, so following is a list of the household products which Shell produces:

Heritage (furniture polish), Shell Flea Collar, Home Freshener (room deodorizer), Child Protector Top (safety lids), Citrus Blossom, Open Air, Wild Flower (solid air fresheners), and Tegen (roofing).

by Jean Turk



Fate of Presidio

San Franciscans Concerend with the Fate of the Presidio Conference Committee, in association with the ARC Center for Peace and Progressive Politics, Women For Peace, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club and San Francisco Tomorrow, will present a one-day educational conference on the fate of the Presidio Army Base. "The Fate of the Presidio Conference" is scheduled for August 5th, 9 AM to 7 PM, at the Fort Mason Center.

The conference is divided in four sections: a morning seminar, a mid-day forum of discussion on various issues surrounding the closing, late day workshops on scenarios for future activities at the Presidio and an early evening report back from the workshops. The Tenants Union will be holding one of the workshops in the afternoon on issues of housing & homelessness. For more information call ARC at 397-1452 or call the TU.

FREE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING

Increase your skills and improve your neighborhood. Join Community Boards, San Francisco's award-winning neighborhood dispute resolution program. For more information about free volunteer training, call Rita Adrian at Community Boards, 239-6100.

SFTU Counseling

Besides being an advocacy group for tenants, the SFTU provides tenants with one-to-one counseling on all aspects of tenant-landlord problems—from rent increases to evictions to health and safety issues and so on.

Members can receive counseling either by phone or in person. Non-members are welcome to stop by our walk-in clinic. We have hours most evenings and on Saturdays, as well as daytimes.

Call 282-6622 to confirm our hours, but generally counseling is available as follows:

Mondays — 10 AM to 9 PM
Tuesdays — 1:30PM to 5 PM and 7-9PM
Wednesdays — 10AM to 9 PM
Thursdays — 5 PM to 7 PM
Fridays — Call for Hours
Saturdays — 11 AM to 1:30PM

On Saturday, June 24, TU members gathered at our offices for 'one day of fun and music,' at our annual membership day. This year's event marked the 19th year that the TU has been fighting for the rights of tenants.

TU members enjoyed a barbecue, a garage sale, music by Marc Janowitz and Lee Goland, as well as a series of informational workshops on the Rent Board, vacancy control, and the city's new affordable housing plan (analyzed by *Bay Guardian* editor Tim Redmond). The workshops were such a success that we're exploring the possibility of holding similar workshops on a regular basis.

We want to thank all those who volunteered time, money and donations to our "jumble" sale

Landlords Choose Mascot

The National Association of Landlords, in its newspaper, *The National Landlord*, recently announced that it has chosen a mascot—the lamprey, a parasitic fish which fastens itself to its victim and sucks its blood until the victim dies.

E.L. Chupa-Sangre, spokesman for the group, was quoted in the article as saying that the lamprey was not the landlords' first choice, "but the Bar Association has already adopted the vampire bat, and the leach is virtually synonymous with the insurance companies."

He added, "Many people already identify landlords with other animals, such as the hyena and the vulture, but we felt that these animals would be inappropriate choices inasmuch as they perform useful environmental roles. We landlords have a long-time commitment to truth in advertising, and what better place to demonstrate that commitment than in the symbol of our Association? Given that the animals we would have preferred were already taken, the lamprey was the only logical choice."

Helping Landlords Raise the Rent

Bad news for tenants: landlords now have at their disposal the 'Landlord Clearing House', an innocent sounding name for an organization which says 'We are an organization solely engaged in one activity—enabling landlords to achieve the highest rent possible under the San Francisco Rent Ordinance.'

This organization, which seems to have no pretense that it performs any useful service to the community, makes its money off of landlords' greed. In a city where rents are already the second highest in the nation, where homelessness is epidemic, where thousands are evicted each year because housing costs are already unconscionably high, we have the Landlord Clearing House to add to the problem.

According to its literature, the Clearing House will evaluate apartment buildings to find any areas where landlords may be able to circumvent the rent control law—areas such as capital improvements, banked rent increases, operating and maintenance costs, and passthroughs. (you know, all those things landlords said they don't do, but would have to if vacancy control comes)

If your landlord has missed any opportunity to raise your rent through history, these people will let him/her know and help to guide the increase through the Rent Board. Best of all, they work on commission—25 percent of whatever increase they are able to obtain—so it'll be no problem for your landlord to hire them.

If your landlord uses these people, let us know; we'd like to keep an eye on them.

Homelessness

In June 1989, the Tenants Union, in conjunction with other groups and individuals, authorized the beginning of an organizing drive to aid and empower our natural allies, the homeless.

The project is still in the formative stage and encourages TU members and supporters to become involved. Until further notice, the project can be reached at mail at the TU address c/o Michael Canright or by phone at 431-5137.

At present, working plans include on site investigation of existing homeless shelters, city agencies and support services. In addition, a Homeless Handbook (of useful information) is being compiled and other leaflets for handout are under review.

As conceived, the project will focus on agitation rather than direct service, including the possibility of militant land seizures and other forms of direct action.



Housing Plan

Cont. from Page 1

written comments to July 14th. Tenants who wish to take up the challenge should direct such comments to:

Mayor's Office of Housing
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Perhaps the most important change that can be made at this late date is to force the inclusion of a least one tenant advocate (from established organizations like the Housing and Tenants' Council, Affordable Housing Alliance or the T.U.) on HAC, if only just to monitor the final language to prevent some of the real estate people from sliding something in that will serve to enrich the greedy and hoggar the needy. Another necessary change would be addition of a Rent Board representative to the Housing Coordinating Group described above.

Copies of the Executive Summary and related statistical matters are available and the updated Draft Report reflecting comments of the June 28th hearing will hopefully be available before the July 14th deadline at:

Department of City Planning
450 McAllister, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

by Brian Doohan

Vacancy Control Ready to Go

Cont. from Page 1

the catch—this freezes the law from taking effect through the election—the status quo is maintained until and unless the voters approve the plan.

Looks pretty discouraging, doesn't it? Hey, we've waited ten years for real rent control; what's another year? Get ready for *Vacancy Control, Part VI—The War Continues*. Tenants and landlords will once again besiege City Hall with letters, phone calls and demonstrative actions. Supervisors and their aides will reluctantly nod their heads to legions of lobbying constituents. Speeches will pour forward. Editorials damning rent control will ooze from the dailies, blaming it for everything had from homelessness to crack.

If the issue of housing affordability was not so serious, this ritual bloodletting could be viewed as high comic art where the forces of good and evil battle one another for so long, everybody forgets

why they started fighting in the first place. All that's missing is the love affair between the tenant organizer and the real estate scion.

The 1989 season begins now. Leafletting at sites around the city will begin as soon as the draft legislation is announced and a firm date for the Land Use hearing is set. People are needed to help leaflet at weekend shopping sites and weekday transit stops. Phone trees will urge SFTU members and others to write letters, make phone calls and testify at the hearing in support of vacancy control. (See the accompanying box for the Supervisors' phone numbers.) If you are ready and willing to engage in summertime politics, please call SFTU and we'll plug in.

by Jim Faye

Condo Conversion

Cont. from Page 1

text. As such, it may be a difficult initiative to defeat since, as usual, the landlords have tons of money and tenants have so little.

Under current law, no more than 200 condo conversions can take place in any one year. Forty percent of tenants in a building the owner wants to convert must approve of the plan and some protections are built in for tenants who don't favor conversion. This new plan would allow an additional 500 more conversions through 1993 at which point there would be no cap at all on the number. It has the same protections built in as the current law, but raises the percent of tenants who need to agree to conversion to 51 percent. It

probably would not be much more difficult to obtain that percent over the 40 percent, and the trade-off is certainly not worth it.

This plan may be a prelude to a larger battle which looms ahead. This Fall, the current condo conversion law expires and developers and tenants will likely battle over its extension. Tenants also will be seeking to have the conversion law include the new fad of 'tenancies in common,' which are essentially condos, but with enough technical differences that they are now exempt from the condo conversion law. The landlord initiative may well be designed to guarantee that these tenancies in common will continue to be protected.

Affordable housing activists have long been concerned over conversion of rental units to condos or tenancies in common since the effect is to remove usually affordable rental housing from the market already. In a city like SF, where affordable housing is very rare, these plans only add to our housing problems.

Member Survey

Cont. from Page 1

voted yes on Proposition U, last year's vacancy control initiative.)

The survey also showed that TU people are active politically: 99 percent are registered to vote and over three-quarters called government officials, wrote letters to officials, signed petitions, and attend public demonstrations.

Other results of the survey include:

—The average TU member has lived in the city for 13 years and in their current apartment six years. There's 1.7 people per household and members pay 30 percent of their income towards rent.

The average rent for members is \$620 a month.

—Twenty three percent of the respondents have renters insurance; 34 percent have been evicted (77 percent fought the eviction); 27 percent have brought cases to the Rent Board; and 14 percent have hired attorneys to handle their landlord problems.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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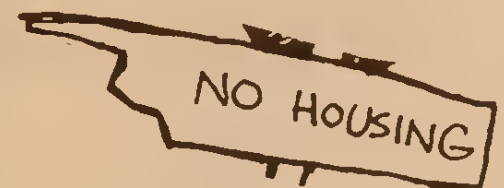
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554-5497

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MAYOR ART AGNOS—City Hall, Room 200,
San Francisco, CA 94102, 554-6141.



JOIN IN TENANTS UNION ACTIVITIES!

As a member you have an opportunity to become a part of the tenants movement, in a variety of interesting ways. Except for a part-time office manager & volunteer coordinator *all* of our work is done by volunteers working in such key roles as counselors (training provided), producing the newspaper, organizing tenants, raising money... For other possibilities see below. *If interested contact the Tenant Union Volunteer Coordinator: Chris Martinez at 282-5525 or return the coupon.* No experience necessary.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The legislative and electoral action arm of the Tenants Union. The committee meets regularly. If you would like to receive regular bulletins on tenant legislation & committee activities please leave your name with the volunteer coordinator at 282-6622 or return coupon.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Please add me to Legislative Committee mailing list: _____ Let me know about other volunteer opportunities: _____ Tenant Counseling _____ Newsletter: Research _____

Organizing _____ Fundraising _____ Office Work _____ Outreach _____ Direct Action _____

Other _____

Return to: Volunteer Coordinator, SFTU, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110

In SF, Environmental Hazards in Homes Unregulated

San Francisco renters can add two more environmental problems to their worries, and these are in our homes. A few weeks ago, the state Department of Health Services issued a report finding that up to 20 percent of all children have excessive levels of lead in their blood—from lead paint. At the same time, awareness of problems with asbestos in the home was growing, as the San Francisco Rent Board issued its first two decisions regarding the health hazards of asbestos.

Asbestos and lead paint are present in virtually every apartment built before 1972 and with 95 percent of the city's housing stock constructed before 1970, this is brewing as a major health and housing problem.

However, what is scariest is that the city (nor the state) has absolutely no regulations which address the two problems, both of which have been well documented as serious hazards by health professionals. This despite the fact that many other states, especially in the case of lead paint, have very strong laws which require its removal from apartments.

Both problems are similar in that they involve toxic substances which can and do enter the human body causing severe and usually irreversible health problems. However, they are also different in that asbestos is most a danger when it becomes airborne and affects adults and children alike. On the other hand, lead paint—even when not airborne and covered by other paint—poses danger to children six years of age and under. If it becomes airborne, it is also a danger to adults.

The basic question regarding lead and asbestos is whether or not their very existence in a home (especially one occupied by children in the case of lead) should be a violation of health codes, or, at the very least, whether regulations should exist to prescribe at what point their presence is posing a danger to tenants and how their removal should be regulated so that it is safely accomplished.

Lead Paint

The issue of lead paint and childhood lead poisoning has long been recognized as a serious housing issue in the Northeast, however, it hasn't been raised as an issue here until June, when the state Department of Health Services issued a report showing that up to 20 percent of children living in homes built before 1970 were found to have dangerous levels of lead in their blood.

The major source of lead poisoning is from children ingesting lead paint—from chewing on windowsills or eating small chips of paint, for example. Lead is not naturally found in the body and a paint chip half the size of a postage stamp can cause a child's lead level to greatly exceed a level considered 'safe.' Lead, at low levels, causes learning disabilities, hyperactivity and reduced intelligence. At higher levels it will cause mental retardation or death. Children are especially susceptible to lead poisoning because they are apt to put various objects in their mouths and because lead attacks the developing nervous system and internal organs with irreversible effects.

Where lead poison prevention work has occurred, it is generally accepted that 80 percent of the homes built before 1970 have lead paint and that 20 percent of the children in those homes will have elevated lead levels. However, until this recent study, previous work in San Francisco has indicated that medical professionals were not identifying this problem—in 1988 there were zero cases of lead poisoning reported in the city to DHS; the likelihood that city with SF's housing stock would not have a single case of lead poisoning is inconceivable. Partly this could be explained by the fact that most medical schools have ignored this problem until the last ten years, and that early symptoms of poisoning mask many common childhood illnesses—drowsiness, listlessness, and nausea are typical symptoms. However, another analysis is that lead poisoning is a housing issue: its eradication will only come from eliminating lead paint from housing and no city will willingly accept the huge costs that recognizing this problem implies, for it would cost millions to accomplish removal—a cost landlords certainly won't bear willingly.

What Other States Do

With this recent study, California is proposing addressing the problem as a health issue—educating the public and pediatricians on the problem and recommending that children under the age of six receive annual lead tests. It has also recommended that "appropriate" agencies develop regulations for lead paint abatement.

But, in Massachusetts for example, lead poison-

ing is treated as a housing problem and has very strict regulations governing lead paint. Its law include:

— The existence of lead paint in a home where children live is a health code violation, even if it is covered with other paint.

— Landlords must remove the hazard within *ten days* or face severe penalties; jail terms are not unheard of for non-complying landlords, and the law calls for penalties of \$500 *per day of violation*.

— Alternative housing must be found for children while the lead paint is removed, at the owner's expense.

— When property is sold, the new owner must be informed of the presence of lead and must then bring the property in compliance with the lead law (e.g. remove the lead paint). This has had the effect of banks requiring lead paint tests and deleading as conditions of mortgages.

The longterm goal of the state's program is the complete removal of all lead paint hazards in all residential property, and as can be seen from the strict regulations above, it is considered one of the most serious health code violations. It is also a very active area of tenant law, with jury awards of million-plus dollars being routinely awarded in cases where a child was poisoned due to a landlord's unwillingness to act swiftly enough (the law allows for actual damages and treble punitive damages).

California's DHS report indicates that the focus of any laws in California will not be as strict, in that the authors of the report focus mostly on the danger of lead paint in situations where the paint is chipping and peeling and the housing is otherwise deteriorating. Other states have found that while peeling paint is most often associated with severe lead poisoning, the amount of lead needed to cause damage to the nervous system of a child is so miniscule that even in housing in superior condition it remains a danger, especially when one considers a child's propensity, for example, of looking out a window "chewing" on the window sill located a mouth level. Further, the belief is that eventually all lead paint will someday be peeling and chipping, and that it is such a dangerous substance its presence is inherently a danger to health and safety.

Asbestos

While around the country there is twenty years of experience in lead paint and housing, asbestos is a relatively newly identified housing problem. Just as with lead paint, the accepting that asbestos—in virtually every home—is a danger to the tenants means that someone (again the landlords won't want to) has to pay for it; it has been estimated that the cost of removing asbestos from Bay Area residential buildings would cost tens of millions of dollars.

Asbestos was a common building material in homes built before 1970. It is most commonly found in acoustical ceilings, textured wall paints and plaster, vinyl or linoleum floor backings, and boiler and heat duct insulation. Asbestos is most dangerous when airborne, as it breaks down into microscopic fibers which lodge themselves in the lungs causing ailments such as emphysema. Danger signs of asbestos becoming airborne is when renovation work is being performed, where there's water damage, crumbling ceilings or walls and when there's a deteriorating heating system.

The irony of asbestos is that it is recognized as a clear health hazard in public buildings (whole schools are having it removed completely) and in the workplace. Claims against Johns Manville, a producer of asbestos, caused that corporation to go bankrupt. The recognition that the same material is dangerous in people's homes—where they spend much more time—has not been made. No regulations at all exist in state or local tenant and housing laws which define what level (if any) of asbestos is "safe" and when it should be removed.

San Francisco's Rent Board recently made two decisions regarding asbestos removal, but both of these were very limited and did not touch at all the basic issue of whether asbestos itself is unsafe. In the first decision, the Rent Board did rule that where asbestos removal had caused it to become airborne at excessive levels, the tenant was entitled to a "decrease of services" and awarded nominal back rent to TU member Judy Greenfield. However, the case was limited, partly, because much of the case focused on the careless methods used by the contractor removing the asbestos. As such it did not address whether asbestos itself is a violation. The other case was worse news for tenants: the Board ruled that asbestos removal was a "capital improvement" to a building and thus

allowed the landlord to pass through the costs of it to the tenants.

Further, no regulations exist to even force landlords to disclose to tenants that their home has asbestos in it, thus the burden is placed on the tenant to hire a professional testing company to find out if they are in danger of being exposed.

Clearly, these two substances have been proven seriously harmful. Where fifty years ago the main area of health and safety code violations in buildings were areas such as plumbing and wiring, today we can say we've mostly "solved" those problems and lawmakers need to recognize that these indoor environmental hazards are the issue we need to deal with in the 90s. Especially in the area of lead poisoning, where so much experience exists, it is senseless that there are no regulations. Where in other cities tenants are able to withhold rent or take legal action to have lead removed from their homes, a San Francisco tenant would face eviction if s/he were to withhold rent to try to force deleading of their apartment, for it is not a health code violation here, even if the child is seriously ill.

In both of these areas, legislators must look at the affirmative steps taken elsewhere to (1) acknowledge the seriousness of the problem and (2) to develop regulations recognizing that these are housing problems, in fact health code problems which are on the level of the most serious ones in the law today. Certainly the work in other states where lead paint has been regulated for twenty years should be an example as to how we might begin addressing the problem of toxins in our homes.

By Ted Gullicksen

JOIN THE SFTU

If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA, 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____

(W) _____

Zip Code: _____

Landlord's Name: _____

Units in Bldg.: _____

Bedrooms in Unit: _____

Current Rent: _____

- ☐ \$20 Low Income
☐ \$30 Regular
☐ \$40 Household
☐ \$60 Sustaining

I'd like to volunteer also:

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8 pm, Friday & Saturday, July 28 & 29
A mere \$7 / \$4 for conference attendees

The Rose & Thistle
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For more valuable information: 641-0889.

Conference Information

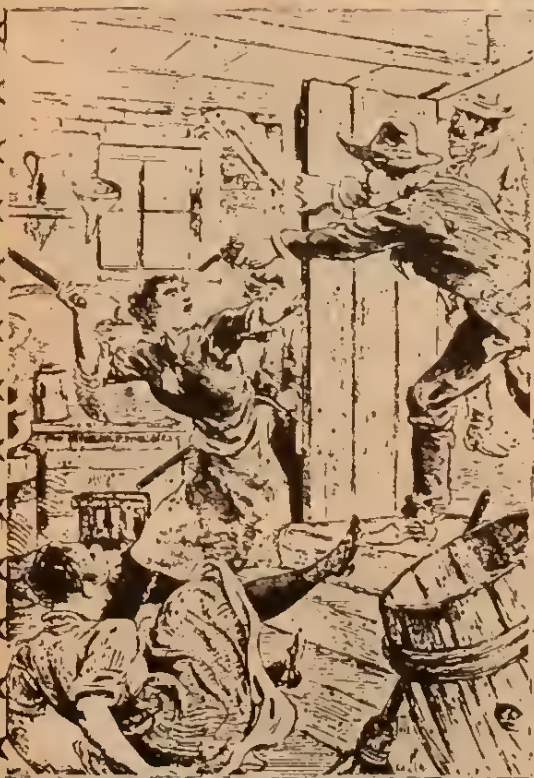
The "Living Without Religion" conference runs Thursday, July 27 through Sunday, July 30.

Sessions include: Humanism vs. Religion; Eastern Religious views of the Afterlife; Religion and politics in the 1990s; Western Religious Views on the Afterlife; Humanism and Happiness; Dealing With Death, Grief and Euthanasia; Eupraxophy – Ethics Without Religion; Moral Education; Humanism and Sexuality; Humanism and Critical Thinking

Speakers include: Paul Kurtz, Professor of Philosophy, State University of New York; Gerald Larue, Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California; Priscilla Alexander, Director, COYOTE; Robert Alley, Professor of Humanities, University of Richmond (and many more).

Conference location: Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco
Cost: \$85 for the entire conference, or \$20 for individual sessions (\$10 for students)
For complete information and registration, call Free Inquiry at (716) 834-2921.

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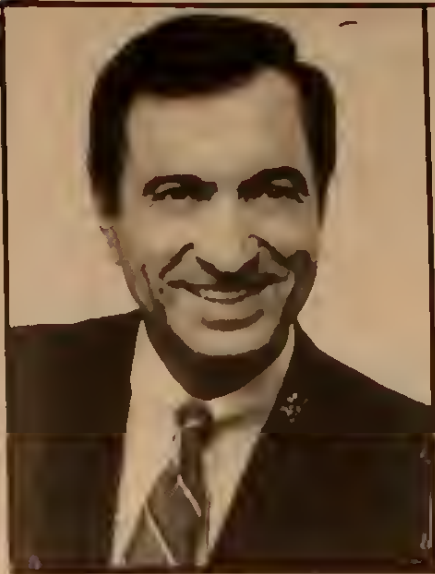
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PARKING FUND SURPLUS

- by Mayor Art Agnos

The Off-Street Parking Fund contains a large surplus and has more money in its coffers than can be spent in the 1989-90 fiscal year.

That's why I originally proposed borrowing for one year \$2.3 million from that surplus to be used to pay for tax supported traffic and parking functions now charged to the General Fund.

The purpose of the proposed transaction was to free up money to address major crises the City faces in connection with AIDS, crack cocaine and the homeless. And to do so without in any way slowing down or hindering the neighborhood garage program authorized by the voters.

Since that proposal was offered, the Tax Assessor has adjusted his revenue projections upward by some \$3.5 million.

In addition, the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors cut \$1.5 million from the court budget and made \$2 million in technical adjustments to the budget I submitted.

The net result is that the budget now has \$7 million worth of flexibility it did not have when submitted on June 1.

There is no longer any need to borrow from the Off-Street Parking Fund, and I am recommending that the transfer not take place.

The Parking Authority ended the 1988-89 fiscal year with a surplus of \$13.4 million. During fiscal 1989-90 the fund will grow by another \$8 million. The Agency budget is only \$4.2 million. That means there would be more than \$17 million available for capital projects during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

It would cost a maximum of \$12.1 million to complete every project on the 1989-90 project list, assuming there are no delays in any project — an assumption that has never been true in the past because of delays associated with site acquisition and other problems.

Here is a complete list of all the capital projects the Parking Authority has ap-

proved with amounts that could possibly be spent in 1989-90:

- Architectural services and all testing work at the Vallejo site — \$ 600,000. Money to acquire the site has already been appropriated. The Parking Authority does not yet have title to the site because the owner has been unwilling to sell. Problems surrounding the acquisition of this site have nothing to do with lack of funding.
- Full cost of construction of Polk/Bush garage — 3.2 million. The site has already been purchased.
- Construction of a surface lot at California and Fillmore — \$500,000. Funds to acquire the site have already been appropriated.
- Acquisition of a site at 16th and Market Streets — \$750,000.
- A reserve to cover possible legal costs for the Mission-Bartlett garage — \$300,000. The garage is already in operation.
- Construction of a new library in Civic Center will reduce the number of parking spaces there. The 1989-90 parking budget, therefore, contains \$500,000 for studying parking expansion.
- To meet the City's commitment to Yerba Buena Center, the Parking Authority has approved expansion of the Fifth and Mission garage. The Off-Street Parking fund would subsidize the expansion with \$2 million.
- The 1989-90 capital projects list also includes a \$4 million subsidy for expansion of the Ellis-O'Farrell garage.

This is a very ambitious list of projects, if they are all completed in one year's time, the Off-Street Parking Fund would end the year with a surplus of more than \$5 million.

Those who claim my budget is "raiding" the parking fund are simply playing fast and loose with the facts. My budget does not diminish the Off-Street Parking Fund in any way.

*****PARKING PLACE*****

*****DEFICIT*****

by Supervisor Bill Maher

The S.F. Parking Authority recently voted to transfer 2.3 million dollars of parking fund revenues to the City's General Fund. This means that these funds will no longer be available to provide parking opportunities to our neighborhoods.

The legislation which established the fund states that its revenues can be used for other purposes only after our parking needs have been met. So where in the heck do the folks who proposed this raid live? Most of the neighborhoods that I visit have murderous parking problems. Do I hang out in the wrong neighborhoods? What is going on?

Last year Mayor Agnos promised the people of San Francisco that he would not raid the City's Off-Street Parking Fund to solve the budget crunch, saying "... the use of off-street parking funds simply was not an option. I absolutely refuse to balance the City's budget with a series of one-time quick fixes." Four weeks later he stripped the fund of several million dollars.

This year, the budget is much more in balance and yet, included in the proposal is swiping 2.3 million dollars. Why? On the one hand we are claiming poverty, hence the dire need to take neighborhood money so... Why are we adding almost 800 new positions in this year's budget if we are so poor? Why are we raising fees and fines in this budget? What is the average citizen getting for their massive tax contribution?

Perhaps the most unbelievable part of this outrage is that, after the City makes it impossible for you to park legally in your

neighborhood, the City is now proposing to punish us severely for parking unlawfully by raising the cost of parking tickets. You are getting fleeced.

Parking fines are no longer a way to enforce parking regulations. They have become a way of stealing the public blind while claiming that no taxes are being raised. If it costs the average resident hundreds of dollars more, I am not sure the subtle difference between fees, fines and taxes is terribly comforting.

We need to make neighborhood parking a priority. When we fail to do so we pit neighborhood merchants against residents which is a lose-lose policy. Instead, we need a win-win policy.

We need to build more parking opportunities on our commercial strips. We need to consider making these spaces cheap or free from late at night to early in the morning. The merchants and their customers don't need them at that hour so why not let the residents use them? What about getting some motorized cable cars and running a shuttle service between various garages that are under utilized at night?

Perhaps if people could park legally they would not be driving around aimlessly blocking the Muni and bus stops while looking for a parking space.

We deserve better and we can have it if we insist. I urge you to call and write City Hall to protest the proposed transfer of parking funds and the increase in parking ticket fees. If we don't, we will have no one to blame, and to pay, but ourselves.

Editor's Note: AS WE GO TO Press, the Mayor has decided not to borrow the \$2.3 million from the parking fund. Parking ticket increases, however, are still being proposed.



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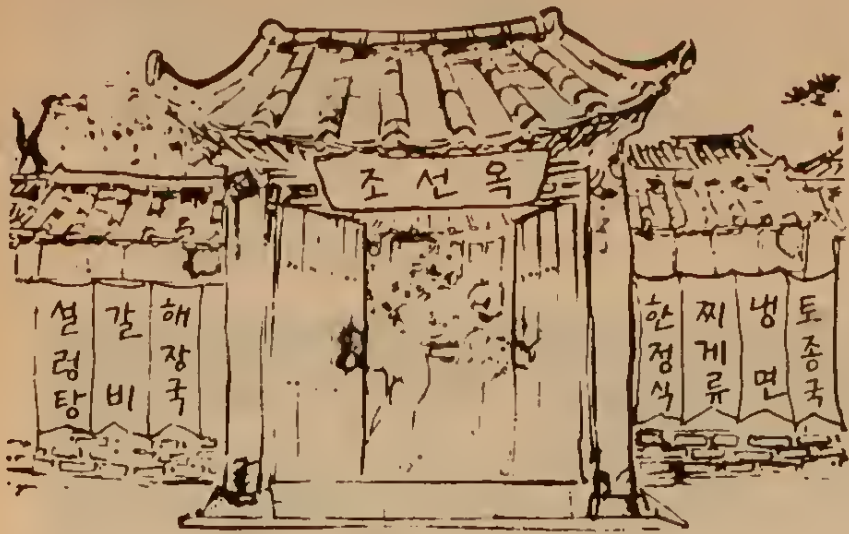
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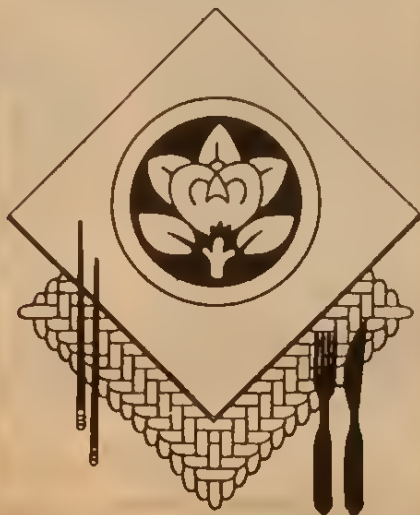
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CYBERNETICS: A BRAVE NEW WORLD ?

by Manuel E. Dávila

Learning the mechanical aspects of computer technology is important, but much more crucial is to become aware of how this so-called second Industrial Revolution will change our lives, and the world as we've known it.

It was Norber Weiner, emeritus MIT professor and researcher, in his book *God and Golem Inc.*, perhaps one of the first ones to reflect upon the implications of evolving into a cybernetic world.

Cybernetics is the science of communication and control theory that is concerned with the study of automatic control systems such as the nervous system and brain and mechanical-electrical communications systems.

God and Golem, Inc., generates many valuable insights. First, it ponders our God-like ability to create thinking machines, and how the creation of machines fosters



the notion of our own organism as a piece of machinery. The bionic human being we watch in movies, on TV, and in the legion of Star Wars toys kids enjoy so much nowadays, is a formidable intuition or premonition of what we may become in the future.

The most ominous issue brought about by Weiner's book, I feel, is the question of how are we going to fit into this mechanized, controlled world. And, as a corollary; how the quality of our lives will be enhanced or diminished, and how will the riches, progress and comfort made possible by this revolution be fairly distributed or enjoyed by the largest possible number of people.

We have seen how the computer revolution has produced geometrically more benefit for the HAVES', and less and less for the HAVE NOTS' This seems to be not only a result of random re-shuffling of the economic factors, but a synergistic effect of sorts caused by the power of computer technology in the hands of the powerful. Yes, some of the means of production have fallen into people's hands, but the gap is narrowing as the need to control information and processes grows, and the cost of more sophisticated technology becomes a limitation for the acquisition and enjoyment of this technology.

If we were to make a judgement based on the working conditions of some of the modern cybernetic workers, it will be "thumbs down". One of my friends, who at times goes on temporary assignments to do word processing, relates with frustration the lack of concern or inability of many employers to provide adequate working conditions such as: a well configured and maintained state-of-the-art equipment, a concern for the so-called ergonomics of the place, and a fair amount of work and pay.

My friend says there are other problems such as: the high cost of computer training, the length of time needed to develop the skills, and the uncertainty generated by the lack of standard tools or applications. For instance; a person may invest one year learning a particular word processing program, only to find out at the job interview that the one learned is not the one the employer uses.

On the other hand, the computer professional needs to keep him/herself abreast of technological developments and products in order to remain competitive in the job market. This means either a significant additional investment in terms of research, training time and/or additional equipment, or submitting oneself to unfavorable working conditions.

We need to be aware of these changes if we really want to make it in the age of the computer, and in the Brave New World.

For your comments or question, please call (415) 824-4418, or write to: Manuel E. Davila, c/o THE ELVES Office Support Services, 3370 - 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94110

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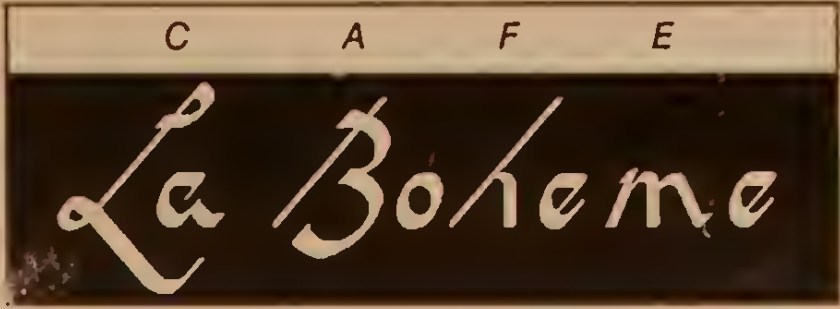
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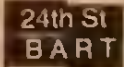


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a Life in the day OF The MISSION

Written By: Jeanne Hallacy

Photographs By: Fuminori Sato

How much is one night... twenny bucks? I'll take it." The stranger takes out a fistful of crumpled bills and slaps them down on the ledge beneath the steel grating.

"Altamont Hotel. Room 416? Hold on, I'll check. No, he is not. Listen, you're gonna have to wait 'cause I have a CASH paying man here and I gotta take care of business. Call back later darlin'," he said, and hung up.

"Okay... Mr. Ah-tce-buh Smith. Go to Room 217, Mr. Smith that's a front room overlooking the street. He is seated inside the small front desk room off the street entrance. A crookedly typed list of homeless shelters is scotch taped on the wall next to turquoise postcards of Krisna and a yellowed certificate of merit from the SF Police Activities Program. A daytime soap opera is on the color TV. The actress is weeping over her lost love.

"I'm an overdeveloped rabbit," he says, clutching a 10 gallon plastic container of 'Super Bubble' with 'softer for a longer chew' written in bubble gum pink on the front. The container is filled with red potato cubes soaking in water. He stacks this on top of a 1950's style 'Campfire Marshmallows' tin stuffed with shredded cabbage, and walks to the abandoned foyer of the hotel lobby to pull up a milk crate and begin his tale.

Prince Mata Siete, a.k.a. Prince Charming, (known commonly to the Altamont tenants as John), was born in 1925 on the back of a covered wagon crossing over from El Paso to New Mexico. He took the name Mata Siete ("killer of 7 with 1 gun") coined by his grandfather - General Mata Siete, a five star legend in the Mexican Army. Grandpa Mata Siete was a powerful haciennero with an estate and a private security force nestled in the cleavage of the high Sierras near Chihuahua "far away from any city of sin".

"My grandfather had to leave because Pancho Villa and his gang intruded on their hacienda. They came and stayed there and demanded all kinds of things like clean towels every days. He had 7 virgin daughters and Pancho Villa wanted to rear end 'em all." Grandpa packed up his 7 (yet) virgin daughters and brought the family to this side of their native land.

The Prince was raised all over the southwest and San Francisco. At 22, he began a 13 year pilgrimage as a seaman. "I worked every thing and every part of those ships; below deck, above and on deck. I was a cook, bullwiper, first engineer, second engineer, stevedore, you name it. Did the sugar cane run, pineapple run, cotton run and every damn run from the Mediterranean to the Far East. Cyprus, Tripoli, Port Said, Beirut, Haifa, Singapore, Saigon, Gulf of Siam, Okinawa, Manila, the Saipan Express, Calcutta and Madras. I been slapped in the face with sea foam, splashed and caressed with 7 Sea sea foam," he laughs. Ah, Madras.

THAT was the journey. The Royal Madras Road on the east coast of India. "It was like a holy land," he whispers, palming the memory like a polished crystal vision. "No radio, TV, music or talking. I passed through

a multitude of royal, majestic, meditations under a blazing buttermilk sky. Not a thread of blue. The sky was all sun."

The week he spent wafting on transcendental clouds in Madras unveiled a finely crafted ancient deity of ethereal thought. Of the lessons from the journey he said, "I discovered absolute truths too sacred to mention in the earshot of those who may twist and pervert it."

In 1959, John had enough of seafaring and the ship's bum meals that "belly robbed" him half his life. He spent a few years working as a shrimper before returning to San Francisco where his aunt lived on "Millionaire Row" in Pacific Heights with her aging husband, a prominent City entrepreneur. John did odd jobs for the wealthy neighbors and acted as the watchdog companion of his uncle - accompanying him on his drinking binges throughout the City to safely whisk him home before his raucous public behavior damaged his social position.

He then decided to pursue a landbound career and went to school to get his barber shop license. But, after several successful years of operating the "7 Sea Crossroad Barber Shop" on the corner of Mission and

Van Ness, the dreadful hand of fate swept him back out to sea, this time without a buoy to mark the horizon.

After an argument with a young couple that lived near him, the woman accused John of threatening to murder her. He was assigned to City social worker who deemed him incorrigibly violent. He was sent to a "rest home" to reconsider his place in society with the aid of 5,000 mg. of thorazine a day.

The more he protested, the more he fulfilled their diagnosis. "From 1970 to 1980 I slept," he said. "I got 10 years of rest under the influence of enough thorazine to keep a plough horse deader n' a doornail." This was at a time when the black shades of secrecy were still drawn over the often inhuman treatment patients received in "rest homes".

Upon his release, he slowly pieced together the sharded threads of his shattered window view. He worked in a series of jobs - as an estate caretaker, a farm worker and a freelance barber visiting hospitals and rest homes to groom patients. "I had myself a little black doctor's bag filled with all my barber and shaving tools. I've always been a duty bound and work happy man. Have

bag will travel," he jokes.

During the last five years as a part-time manager and janitor at the Altamont Hotel on 16th Street, the Prince feels "more perfect than I ever felt in my life". He doesn't carry a burden of bitterness towards his lost years in the rest home. "I would poison my system if I kept angry," he replies.

The Prince finds solace in his pursuit of spiritual meditation and painting. His room in the Altamont looks like an abstract-expressionist-pre-modern-post-modern-bauhaus-80's art installation. The door to his room is painted with vertical messages reading "7 Sea ROTC Commando Mata Siete", "All America Mexi-Hindu Krisna Indian Christian", "A Manager Armory Police Army" (to counteract all unlawful activities), interspersed with backward swastikas (a Hindu spiritual sign) and sacred hearts. He describes himself as a "self taught upside down artist" who has to do his work "on the run before someone knocks on the damn door needing something. It's like doing artwork on a flying cargo plane or a submarine sailing under the high foamy waves."

His room is a slow motion dream. It is crammed with a menagerie of objects contrasted against screaming orange walls and a bright red ceiling.

A golf match is on one of four tuned-on TVs. A black roulette wheel butts up against a life size cardboard woman in a slit gown next to a lamp base of a man in loincloth with colored balloon bulbs. A plaster serpent with a missing head. A .45 caliber moquette swings from the ceiling on a bare wire attached to gold links and a wind up toy that plays rock a bye baby. A sculpture of a giant phallic symbol with a Chinese doll draped over it and a ragged American flag impaled on its end. Stuffed animals, plaster Greek vases, a flying unicorn, large posters of Krisna being bathed in scented oils.

And painted signs. Everywhere. Day glo colors stating "Super Prince of Love", "Everybody Is Nobody Only Work Is", "I Am 1 Billion Red White and Blue Blazing Mata Sietes". There is only one table. Covered with crusted brushes and tubes of paint. The colors are mixed on a naked plastic baby doll.

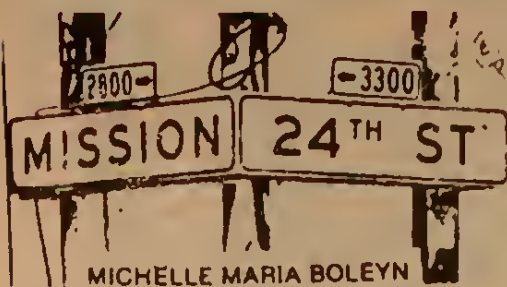
A single painting is propped against the rubble. One of his. It is a very well drawn scene of golden ducks by a pond in autumn. A quiet picture.

The Prince has no bed. Only a pillow in the middle of the slow motion dream. The pillow has sheet music printed on it. "Beautiful dreamer, wake unto me. Starlights and dewdrops are waiting for thee."

Before he goes back to the industrial size garbage bin and mop in the hall of the Altamont, he gives me a snapshot taken of him on 16th Street. "I got a hard rock peace in my heart," he said and went back to work.

Prince MATA-SIETE (a.k.a. "John")





Trying to work through the solstice has been like trying to climb the side of a mountain in smooth soled shoes. People are becoming flamingoes, before my eyes the street is flying. The Mission District is entering its most critical energy solstice - the energy is high and explosive, like a magician pulling flowers from a handkerchief that trails endlessly from his pocket in a multi-colored stream.

On Wednesday, June 21, the first day of summer when the temperature hit a record 97, I spent fifteen minutes standing on the corner of 24th and Mission and this is what I saw:

A green-fatigued six (?) star Pilipino General carrying a riding crop, his chest

covered with numerous odd medals and ribbons...

A group of Norteno musicians (traditional acoustic Mexican folk music artists) headed in the direction of various restaurants and bars where they'll play for coins. A favorite place they play is at the Los Marritos Restaurant...

A dozen Hari Krishnas banging tambourines - A sweet little grandmother of a lady in her sky blue New England all weather cotton hat passing out "God" literature - Jehovah Witness convertes from Latin America standing against the walls of the street while holding the word "AWAKE!/Despierta!" firmly against their chest - Supplicants...

Mexican "pillow" sellers, their bodies surrounded by the floating array of pillows, multi-colored, encased in plastic...

Beautiful Indian grandmothers selling roses...

Women from all over the planet suddenly finding themselves on the same street, the same day, standing next to each other selecting fruit...



Long rows of pre-school children mesmerized by a stray "paleta" cart rolling down the street, its wheels playing little silver bells, before the Police discover that these "Criminal" carts are on the loose again - change the law! they are wonderful...

And, from high above the street corner, the windows of Dance Art Company - sounds of samba escape and grab the rhythm in our stride.

While Walt Fritze, our official Santa Claus of the Mission suns his knees and his nose in the seat beneath the traffic signal. He is wearing bermuda shots and a Hawaiian shirt, his white beard blowing cleverly

in the breeze. Small children stand rooted in their tracks just to see "Santa" sitting there at the wrong time of year, in tropical clothes.

Their little voices squeak out at him, "Why are you here, Santa?"

He answers,

"I'm vacationing in the Mission!"

All this and more in that fifteen minutes of our crazy solstice. Flamingoes, flying two inches off the ground - all of us... PAZ.



U. UTAH PHILLIPS AND DAKOTA SID IN CONCERT!

Come hear Dakota Sid and U. Utah Phillips, the golden voice of the great southwest in concert at the Noe Valley Ministry (1021 Sanchez) July 23rd at 8 PM benefitting the anarchist convention to be held in San Francisco from July 17 through 25th at Project Artaud and other locations in the Mission.

This benefit concert is sponsored by the Industrial Workers of the World (P.O. Box 40485, SF 94140) and Earth First!

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THE CURSE OF WOODSTOCK MOVES WEST

Over the last twenty years, Bob Dylan has gone from being the premiere troubadour of indignant youth to becoming a born-again Christian and, most recently, an Orthodox Jew (the answer, my friend, blows along some pretty schizophrenic jet-streams).

Janis, Hendrix and Morrison each received the prestigious "Billie Holliday - Wasted Talent Award" and when a "fan" gunned down John Lennon on the streets of New York, life felt more Sam Peckinpah than Don McLean (can it be... Yoko Ono the Jackie Kennedy of Rock n'Roll?). Musically, the baby boom has become fat, wrinkled, bland and worse; Mick Jagger is beginning to look like Don Knotts in leather.

Why am I so upbeat? Because, my Little Lumpen Lupie-Lus, we are approaching the twentieth anniversary of Woodstock: The Festival. Some have suggested a nationwide boycott of any celebration or retrospective of an event that contributed so greatly to the ego of a generation this obnoxiously self-aware. I say right on! Groovie! Besides, is there anyone left who is stupid enough to willingly sit in mud for three days to watch Sly Stone, Sha-Na-Na and Joe Cocker (AKA the survivors).

And, for heavens sake, stay away from Woodstock: The Movie! Imagine your kids saying "Gee, the naked girl sitting on that guy's shoulders, cheering while Arlo Guthrie signs about smuggling drugs into Los Angeles, sure looked familiar. MOM!"

The best part of Woodstock most people don't even know about anyhow, Woodstock: The Village! Off and on between '67 and '79 I was fortunate enough to have lived there. What's this got to do with the North Mission? Lots. For the village of Woodstock, three days resulted in dramatic and lasting change. More slowly, but just as effectively, forces outside the Mission shape irreversible changes here.

The town of Woodstock is nestled in a valley about ten miles from the city of Kingston, NY on the Hudson River. Historically, Kingston had been Revolution Central for about three months when the British chased that radical rebel George Washington and his guerrilla forces out of New York City. Spiritually, the local Native Americans claimed that anyone who spent too much time in the Woodstock valley would eventually go mad; our first recognizable similarity to the Mission (I stayed in the valley just long enough to need glasses).

About a hundred years ago a group of rich New York WASPs began hunting for a spot to develop into a spot to develop into a colony for the encouragement of art and culture (sound familiar?). They searched New England, the Catskills and the Appalachians. From Kingston, agents sent a telegram "WOODSTOCK PERFECT LOCATION STOP BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY CLOSE TO NYC STOP NO HEBREWS

STOP" the 1880 equivalent of "AFFORDABLE RENT STOP NO SMOKING ALLOWED STOP"). Woodstock the "art colony" was born.

The young and wealthy of America came to Woodstock, built huge country studios and worked at their art(s). Even in the 1800's the children of the rich frequently enjoyed the delusion that they possessed the tortured souls of artists.

In some cases it was obvious the art was more tortured than the soul. After fill-

fed and wrestled regularly. Very arty.

Toward the end of the '60s, Dylan was camped in a huge country house recuperating from his near-fatal motorcycle accident. Peter, Paul and Mary visited at their agent's mountain side compound. Mason Hoffenberg (coauthor of "Candy") was teaching members of "The Band" how to shoot heroin in a house known as "Big Pink" and pre-Stonewall homosexuals danced together openly at The Townhouse. Every weekend people



ing their walls with bad nudes and landscapes, these types usually evolved into faux-socialists. Failed at art they took up raising the political consciousness of reluctant local "asses" (see Woodstock/Mission - subtext "looney politics").

Enough poor-but-talented artists showed up to make the Woodstock Artist Guild world famous. Hundreds climbed Mead Mt. each summer to attend outdoor classes in painting, sketching and watercolor; sculptors sculpted, classical music poured across the mountains from the open-air Maverick Concerts, and the Beaux Arts Ball rivaled the raciness of Carnaval.

Woodstock became a "center of Bohemian culture" (feeling a little deja vu?). To be an artist in New York meant to spend time in Woodstock. Attitudes about Jews and theatre folk changed. Lee Marvin was a local boy who first performed at the Woodstock Playhouse. Malcolm Crowley wrote parts of "Exiles' Return" there and, during one summer of the bohemian-beat 50's, the rough, alcoholic-poet/owner of The Cafe Espresso kept a 5' alligator on a chain in Tinker Creek next to the cafe. The alligator was

drove up from the city to visit the galleries and "take in" the scenery and each summer there was an ever-growing gathering in a big field outside town for a be-in-love-in-rock-n-roll-festival with local bands providing the music.

1969 changed all that. You can read about "Woodstock" in the dozens of anniversary articles that are about to appear. What those articles won't tell you is that Tinker Street Cinema, a converted church, showed "Monterey Pop" that weekend, the Saturday dinner special at the Cafe Espresso was veal pannesan and, at 3 AM, a boisterous group gathered on the village green to direct traffic back to the soon-to-be solidly blocked New York State

Thruway (a banner across Rt. 375 declaring the festival to be elsewhere was all but ignored).

After that fateful weekend "Woodstock" no longer referred to the village, it had become a generation. Meanwhile, back in town, Hendrix was leaving waiters and waitresses \$5 wrapped around a joint and the tourists had become mobs surging up one side of Tinker St. and down the other in a frantic search for... hip-ness?

Picture Union Street with headshops, more Santa cruz than Mendocino, every day a Haight Street Fair. It was kind of exciting, all pachouli and Mercedes Prices rose, affordable real estate disappeared and services became overloaded (ten years later the town as still arguing about building public toilets - thanks to looney-local politics no agreement could be reached).

Years passed. Arts n' crafts replaced art galleries. Headshops became pizza parlors. Rock stars came, bought houses, recorded albums, sold their houses and split for Malibu. A business named Joyous Lake went through incarnations as a leather shop, health food restaurant and band-bar/disco (the Stones played there in '78). The town followed its natural course.


Last fall I went back for a visit. The paint is getting a little shabby on a few of the storefronts. Some guy bought The Woodstock Playhouse and burned it down for the insurance... and got caught. They never did build the children's carousel on the village green.

I found myself asking "What was all the excitement about?". Today Woodstock is a shell of something... but what? We had fun. Some people made money. Woodstock may not have been exploited to death but there's no doubt, exploited it was.

Perhaps, as San Francisco's new center of Bohemian culture, now is a good time to envision what the Mission will be like in twenty years. Will there be art, music and theater or will everything resemble BART Plaza? Who is exploiting the Mission and how? Are we being gentrified, or Tenderloined? Even in need of a fresh coat of paint, Woodstock is surrounded by some of the most beautiful mountains in the country. Not so the Mission. Should this neighborhood lose its direction and self-determination, it is doomed. And a voice said "What a long strange trip it's been."

by Nick Homsfelt

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MON	JULY 03	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JULY 04	DIRECT FROM LONDON "TWO TIMED SOUND" w/ DOM. T.	9:00	FREE
WED	JULY 05	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JULY 06	THE POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	JULY 07	SPECIAL GUEST D.J. - call club for the news flash	9:00	FREE
SAT	JULY 08	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE WITH D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JULY 09	D.J. BLACKSTONE - soul, funk & house	9:00	FREE
MON	JULY 10	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JULY 11	DIRECT FROM LONDON "TWO TIMED SOUND" w/ DOM. T.	9:00	FREE
WED	JULY 12	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JULY 13	THE POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	JULY 14	SPECIAL GUEST D.J. - call club for the news flash	9:00	FREE
SAT	JULY 15	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE WITH D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JULY 16	D.J. BLACKSTONE - soul, funk & house	9:00	FREE
MON	JULY 17	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JULY 18	DIRECT FROM LONDON "TWO TIMED SOUND" w/ DOM. T.	9:00	FREE
WED	JULY 19	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JULY 20	THE POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	JULY 21	SPECIAL GUEST D.J. - call club for the news flash	9:00	FREE
SAT	JULY 22	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE WITH D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JULY 23	D.J. BLACKSTONE - soul, funk & house	9:00	FREE
MON	JULY 24	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE
TUE	JULY 25	DIRECT FROM LONDON "TWO TIMED SOUND" w/ DOM. T.	9:00	FREE
WED	JULY 26	REGGAE CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL DANCE PARTY	9:00	FREE
THU	JULY 27	THE POST MODERN MINK MIX w/ D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
FRI	JULY 28	SPECIAL GUEST D.J. - call club for the news flash	9:00	FREE
SAT	JULY 29	DANCE AT THE ATOMIC CAFE WITH D.J. MINK	9:00	FREE
SUN	JULY 30	D.J. BLACKSTONE - soul, funk & house	9:00	FREE
MON	JULY 31	REGGAE ROOTS CULTURE w/ CORBETT BOWERS I	9:00	FREE

RUSSIAN POETS INVAD THE MISSION

-by John Elliott

How can you pick four Russian poets out of the crowd at the Albion? It's easy—find the ones who look *least* like poets. Locate the clothes of the seventies, and within them you'll find the literary voices of the nineties.

Two days into their first-ever visit to the United States, four Soviet poets entered the heart of the North Mission, the purported New Bohemia, and emerged as diffident celebrities. The foursome—Nina Iskrenko, Aleksei Parshchikov, Ivan Zhdanov, and Aleksander Eremenko—dined at La Rondalla, toured the galleries and performance centers of Valencia Street, mingled at an Adobe Bookstore reception, and finally, read their work at the Albion.

The reading at the Albion, done both in Russian and English, offered the most revealing contrasts. Within this pair of lavish artistic pretense, the poets took the small stage and presented their work with simplicity and poise. As patrons sat at the bar reflecting upon the avant-garde, these unassuming poets offered their version of the real thing, which has more to do with language than look. The English translations, read by John High and Katya Olmstead, reflected poetry which, despite being wrapped in the traditional medium of verse, is rich with experiment and wit.

Indeed, some major publications in the Soviet Literary Machine have considered their poetry a little *too* experimental, an ostensibly aesthetic judgement which has sometimes shrouded political censorship. In the recent years of Glasnost, however, more progressive publications have begun to publish their work.

For their part, the poets seemed as refreshed by the hip ambiance of the Albion as the audience was by their unpretentious reading.

"The Albion is a great place to read," Parshchikov said afterwards as he downed a pint of beer. In the Soviet Union, he

explained, poetry readings are done in academic settings, in auditoriums and classrooms, rather than clubs and cafés.

At a reception held earlier at the Adobe Bookstore, a large crowd of locals munched on Tassajara pastries, drank wine, and took the opportunity meet and talk with the poets. The reception was the first to be held at the

gets paid or not." He explained that he maintains a job as an editor of a agricultural newspaper, and that he writes poetry during his one-hour underground commute to and from work.

Nina suggested that although it is difficult to be a poet in the Soviet Union, it might be even more difficult in America,

"I'm a nobody in the Soviet Union," Nina told a group of curious admirers during the Adobe Bookstore reception. To those people eager to hear stories of literary repression, she added, "I never had trouble for what I write—it's hard to get in trouble if you can't publish."

To herself she is a simple writer, but to the people behind The-art-re-grüp and the LAB, the Divisadero Street arts groups which coordinated the visit, Nina and her comrades represent the vanguard of underground poetry in the Soviet Union. Only five years ago these poets were essentially unrecognized in the Soviet Union, partially due to the state-controlled publishing regime; now, riding the wave of perestroika, their work is receiving attention not only in their own country but also around the world.

John High, The-art-re-grüp's artist-in-residence who has been studying emerging Soviet poetry, was the driving force behind the visit. High has translated work from each of the poets; these translations appeared in the May issue of *Poetry Flash*, and will be published more extensively in the *Five Fingers Review* #7 and in the upcoming anthology, *Weaving A Whirlwind From the Fragments: New Soviet Poetry During the Age of Perestroika*.

The poets visit to the United States was primarily funded by the Soviet Writer's Union, while High's residency has been supported by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry. Support from other domestic sources has not yet matched that of the Writer's Union, which paid the bulk of travel expenses. Despite the uneven support, the LAB's directors, Allen Millar and Anna Cunningham, have professionally orchestrated a landmark cultural exchange.

The contribution from the Soviet Writer's Union is remarkable in that only one of the four poets, Ivan, is a member of this powerful group which has traditionally controlled publishing in the country. Although the other poets expressed appreciation of the Union's contribution, they added that they did not need or want to join the group, instead choosing to join and promote alternative organizations such as the Moscow Poetry Club.

The poets are determined to establish these alternatives in order to express the new descriptive language which they seek. Such raw determination is harder to detect in San Francisco, where the pomp of new media often overwhelms innovations in traditional art. It's easy enough to spot the disparate flashes of artistic effort, but it is difficult to identify the coordinated zeal of a movement, and harder still to find the support for such a movement.

A young American poet from the Mission, Stephen Fowler, told the poets, "I hope someday I can travel to the Soviet Union and be received as well as you have been here." Ivan responded that once he got to Moscow, all would be taken care of. Now, all he needs are a few good poems, a plane ticket, and, if he wants to be *really* groovy, some seventies clothes.



From right to left: NINA ISKRENKO, ALEKSANDER EREMENKO, ALEKSI PARSHCHNIKOV, IVAN ZHDANOV and JOHN HIGH

newly opened 16th Street bookstore, and its success ensures more of the same, including a *Comic Book Confidential* party on June 28th.

Several people asked the poets if it was possible to make a living as a poet in the Soviet Union.

"Poetry is not a job," responded Parshchikov. "A poet writes whether he

where the explosion of mass media has diminished exposure to and support for more traditional mediums. By contrast, poetry and literature remain an integral part of the lives of most Soviet citizens.

At times, the poets seemed uncomfortable with the sudden attention from people whose questions indicated they knew little of them other than their nationality.

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Franklin Square is an elderly neighborhood basking in its memories, waiting for something to turn up. The rented cars of corporate food salesmen glide in and out of the parking lot where big, no-nonsense trucks once carried Hamm's Beer from the brewery but, across the street, the aging Hostess plant still fouls the air with sweet pollution. South of Bryant and 16th, auto buyers test foreign cars and shoppers straggle to and from the City's arguably most dilapidated Safeway. Only in the ghostly crack of bat against the ball... which in retrospect turns out to be a backfiring Mazda... and in the reflections of a few old timers in the two remaining saloons... one yuppified, one not... does a younger generation trace the phantoms of true urban baseball; Joltin' Joe and Lefty... the Seals.

Now a movement has gathered to bring baseball back to the City's heart; not to the Mission but next to the rotting piers off the Embarcadero. But real estate developers also have their eyes on the property. And Giants' owner Bob Lurie, courted from all sides like a rich, crafty widow, is kicking back to watch San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Denver, Vancouver and seemingly points from Tibet to Tiburon heap promises upon his plate if he will only relocate the current NL West leaders to their burg.

Lurie, meanwhile, was shopping around for an alternative to Candlestick and quickly found that the process was as easy as fishing in a well-stocked bathtub.

Potrero neighborhood activist Jim Firth of San Franciscans for Planning Priorities (SFPP) compares what happened when Lurie went to Santa Clara to that nightmare auction everyone has been to where the City went up against a thoroughly demented competitor. "He presented a wish list and they gave him every item," Firth recalls.

One of the more astonishing conces-

sions was the addition of more parking spaces across the city line in San Jose and... it could not be confirmed as the Giants did not return our calls by press time... a lucrative percentage of the parking fees. Baseball may still be the poor man's entertainment as regards the ticket price, but when you add in the program, beer n' franks and the parking it adds up to a pretty penny of which no owner, least of all Bob Lurie will let out of sight.

These concessions to Lurie and the less known but more dangerous overtures to Southern Pacific to free up the 7th and Townsend Street site of an arena that the Mayor believes will make enough money to pay for stadium construction are the glass jaw of the pro-stadium forces, which now include Agnos and his minions, a strange coalition of shirtsleeve unionists and businessmen looking for spinoffs benefits and the San Francisco Ballpark Alliance (SFBA).

Opponents include virtually all of Potrero Hill, such as John DeCastro of the conservative Potrero Boosters and Merchants who warned at a recent Mission Bay hearing that sellouts at either the stadium or arena would back up freeway traffic to I-101 and Firth, a progressive on housing and development issues who expressed concern that Mission Bay housing affordability may prove a tempting chip for the ex-homeboy (Agnos recently moved to Upper Market) to bargain away. "Art Agnos is a politician, not a land-use planner," he declared.

But across Potrero Street, sympathy for the stadium increases in the lower income Mission with former Rent Board administrator Ricardo Hernandez and North Mission Association president David Spero defending the deal. If you feel that baseball is a vital part of the urban experience," Spero said, "you do what you have to to keep the Giants in town."



Pro-stadium forces have been quick to attack role of real-estate developers in financing SFPP. Bernal activist Barbara Bagot, who in the past has worked with Firth on planning and housing issues points out the vested interest of property owners near the stadium who would presumably have to lower the rents on their tiny, expensive units because of the noise, smell and general proletarian infestation caused by the stadium.

But SFPP Chairman Jack Morrison, a former Port Commissioner and Supervisor and, like Firth, an early Agnos supporter, ticks off the reasons why the China Beach Stadium should go down in flames... horrific traffic jams, the loss of housing and the physical presence which he calls "a 150 foot high blight". "It won't be a tragedy if if the Giants move to Santa Clara. It will be more difficult for San Franciscans to go to games there, but not impossible."

Speaking before the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association (SFNNA) shortly before Santa Clara's offer, Mayor Agnos cited two studies -

one favorably comparing the construction costs with those of doming the Stick and the other finding potential basketball, hockey, convention, music and other event revenues made the arena viable and referred the assembled editors to Planning Director Dean Macris for specifics.

Thereupon began a two week search in which Macris passed the ball back to the Mayor's office who referred it to an aide who became ill and could not ultimately produce more than an admission that the fact that, while the doming information came from HOK Co. in Toronto, the arena study was done by the developer, Spectacor.

Agnos also accused opponents of jumping the gun and urged the public to wait for and scrutinize the City's offer which should include a substantial public transit commitment at the expense of parking spaces.

"The Toronto Skydome cost \$350 million and they only put in 500 parking spaces," the Mayor said. "That's what a 21st stadium has to do."

But the irony in the complex stadium controversy is that if Agnos can deliver on his public transit commitments, this may actually damage the City's position because of Lurie's insistence on guarantees from parking fees that San Francisco cannot possibly offer without turning the mixed housing/office/industrial Mission Bay into a giant parking lot.

As Firth also suggests, "Art Agnos is a politician, but he's not a stupid politician."

Giants' spokesman Corey Busch promised that public transit would be considered as an offset to parking and that "the best proposal is what works from the fan's point of view." But the bizarre courtship of Al Davis by desperate, forgetful East Bay officials testifies to the imagistic muscle of pro sports and to the capricious power of its moguls.

- by Brian Doohan

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 1

12th Night on the 1st as the New Shakespeare Company performs that same guy's play of the same name at the Civic Center Plaza, 1:30 pm. Also Sunday.

You can make music if you sign up for one of the Community Music Center's classes and lessons. All ages and levels welcome; fees based on family income. 10 am to 1 pm, 544 Capp Street. Call 647-6015 for a free catalog.

Pegasus and Paul Bunyon join forces in SF Public Library's summer reading program, Flights of Fantasy. (Sorry about that, Babe.) The program, which runs through August 13, is for children through the age of 13. Register at the Mission Library, 3359 24th, and get ready to win exciting prizes. (Volunteers need, too.)

Crisis in China examined in a Marxist analysis in this public meeting sponsored by the Workers World Newspaper. 7 pm, 362 Capp between 18th & 19th; \$2 requested.

MONDAY, JULY 3

Hey Kids! Arts and Crafts for 3 to 6 years old at the Mission Recreation Center, 745 Treat. Be there at 10:30, or show your parents what it's like to keep you home.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

SF Mime Troupe returns to Dolores Park with a new show, *Seeing Double*, set in Palestine, features a young Jewish-American and a look-alike Palestinian-American, leading to sardonic episodes of mistaken identity. 2 pm. Also July 8 & 9.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

Focus on Collectives features two collective performance groups. *Sabot* and *The Moon Has Fat Thighs*, plus discussion. 8 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th Street.

THURSDAY, JULY 6

Disaster Series premiere with the Joe Goode Performance Group. It's a collection of mini dance-dramas which explore personal disaster through metaphors, which is much better than exploring through experience. 8:30 pm, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. Through Sunday July 9 and July 13-16. \$12 Sunday and Thursday; \$14 otherwise.

Vindication celebration with a booksigning and reading by Gail Pheterson, author of *Vindication of the Rights of Whores*. Also on hand will be prostitutes from around the world who contributed to the book and COYOTE founder Margo St. James. 7:30, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. Donation requested.

International Video Art program of short, single-channel videotapes showing the effects video has on other arts forms as a second-hand form of communication. Through Aug. 19, Tuesday - Saturday. Prog. 1: 12:15 - 2:30 pm. Prog. 2: 2:45 - 5 pm. Capp Street Project, 270-14th St. Free. Call 626-7747 for more details.

FRIDAY, JULY 7

Poetry for Nicaragua: Barricada USA presents a poetry celebration in honor of the 10th Anniversary fo the Nicaraguan revolution. The multi-ethnic line-up of poets features the acclaimed Puerto Rican poet Piri Thomas (*Down These Mean Streets*); Kathleen Weaver, translator of Julio Cortazar's *Nicaraguan Sketches*; Chicano poet Alejandro Murgui (*Southern Front*); David Volpendesta, editor of the Central American anthology *Clamour of Innocence*; and Nelly Wong (*Dreams of Harrison Park*). Other poets reading include Jorge Argueta, Q.R. Hand, Jack Hirschman, Luis Talamantez, Sara Menefee, Richard Silberg, Alfonso Texidor, Hilton Obenzinger, Nina Serrano, Celeste O'Connor, and Barbara Jamison. Photographer Totoy Rocamora will present *Faces of Nicaragua*, an image collage. Proceeds go to support the publication of the English language edition of *Barricada Internacional*, the bi-weekly Sandinista newspaper from Nicaragua. Let not all this typing be in vain - come on down to the Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission between 7th & 8th. 8 pm, \$3-5 donation. For more info call 621-8981.

Folksinger J.C. Hopkins will play. 8 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland.

La Cantata de Santa Maria de Iquique, a transcultural musical performance depicting the stormy history of a Chilean mining community at the turn of the century, presented by El Teatro de la Esperanza. This bi-lingual work captures the power and passion of a classic tale of resistance and betrayal. 8 pm, Life on the Water, Bldg. B at Fort Mason. Through July 9, also July 13 - 16. 8 pm; July 16 matinee at 3 pm. \$8.

3 Person Exhibition of installation (Seyed J. Alavi), painting (Sohela Farokhi) and sculpture (Michael Pribich) through Aug. 3. Reception today at 7 pm, with artists' talk July 23 at 4:30 pm. Wed. - Sun., 2 to 6 pm. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Community Organizer's Workshops in a two day blitz (July 15 is day #2) on how to be a more effective advocate for social change. Sponsored by Freedom Socialist Party. 10 am - 5 pm, Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia; call 864-1278.

Music for children with Mark Smith. Stories, sing-alongs and more. 1 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland. Free.

2nd Anniversary Party/Fundraiser for/at Komotion, with World Entertainment War, DJ Veronica Live, and the ever ubiquitous more. 9 pm, 2779 16th Street.

SUNDAY, JULY 9

Glowing Short Stories with Jay Gummerman (*We Find Ourselves in Moontown*) and Ethan Canin (*Emperor of the Air*) at Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 7 pm.

MONDAY, JULY 10

Battle with L.A. as Bay Area Theatresports squares off against their improv counterparts from down yonder. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. \$5.

TUESDAY, JULY 11

'89 Conference Highlights (20th National on Women and the Law) shown in a video of Radical Women founder Clara Fraser's keynote address. Discussion follows. Dinner at 6:45 (donation), meeting at 7:30. 523A Valencia. Call 864-1278.

Make-A-Circus from 12:30 to 3 pm sponsored by SF Recreation and Park Department. To take part, run away to Dolores Park at 18th and Dolores. Free.

THURSDAY, JULY 13

Hot Box presents *Medusa's Beauty Secrets* and *Our Lady of L.A.* by Kathleen Forrest, Cheri Gaulke and Sue Maberry. The former looks at the myths of female beauty through one woman's trip to a beauty shop; the latter is a search for the contemporary goddess. 8:30 pm, ATA, 992 Valencia. \$3. Simulcast on Cable 25 at 7:30 pm.

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**

The Wild Sky's Trap is contemporary dance inspired by the life and work of artist Michel Duchamp, performed by the critically acclaimed Judy Patton and Company (based in Portland). 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th at Shotwell. \$10; 863-9834. Also Sat. July 15.

Political Satire in song and story with the Welfare Cheats and friends. Pat Wynne, Bernard Gilbert and Brook Schoenfield, back from their NY debut, perform original songs, and Tanya Shaffer, Rhodney Ward and Lee Goland add comic impressions. 8 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. Donation of \$4 to \$7 requested. Call 282-9246.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

A guy named Howie sings songs to keep the kids in stitches. 11 am, Buffet Flats, 307 Cortland. Free.

African American Festival with performance, film, video, lectures, dance, theater and music showcasing African and Afro-American people. Proceeds go to the National Union of Metal South Africa/Sarmcol Workers Cooperative (NUMSA/SAWCO) and to a local Western Addition collective. 11 am to midnight, New College, 777 Valencia. \$4 to \$6 sliding scale. Dinner served at 6 pm. Call 824-3890 for more information.

MONDAY, JULY 17

BATS up-and-coming talents from the Bay Area Theatresports workshops in a improv Junior Varsity match. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. \$5.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Gay/Lesbian Seniors Legal Clinic sponsored by Legal Assistance to the Elderly from 10 am to noon. Free, by appointment only. 626-7000.

City Chorus Auditions begin today, sponsored by SF Recreation and Park Dept. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7 to 9 pm at Washington High. Call 586-4805.

THURSDAY, JULY 20

9th Annual Jewish Film Festival starts today at the Castro and runs through July 27. 25 of the best new Jewish subject films from 12 countries are included, with appearances by filmmakers and special guests. Opening night features The Forward, a humorous documentary about America's leading Yiddish newspaper call appropriately The Forward. For more program and ticket information, call 548-0556.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

Appalachian folk and the British Isles with Tim Moran, Mary O'Brien and Mark Skowronek. 8 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Last Summer at Bluefish Cove is Jane Chambers' tale of 7 women who have been reuniting every summer for years. As the play begins this summer, one woman has cancer and a straight woman has stumbled into the secluded beach haven. 8 pm Thurs-Sat; Sun. at 3 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th; \$10-\$12. To Aug. 27.

Anarchist Gathering with music and performances. Obviously, we'll assume, starting time not strictly enforced, but it's at 9 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th Street.

MONDAY, JULY 24

Fratelli Bologna and Pulp Playhouse compete for laughs in a tag-team format at Bay Area Theatresports. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. \$8.

Art Grants discussed by Kary Schulman and Sharon Combs of Grants for the Arts program. Sponsored by SF Arts Democratic Club. 7 pm, New College, 777 Valencia.

Learn Spanish starting today through the Nicaragua Center for Community Action. Beginning through advanced levels taught by native speakers and meet twice weekly for 8 weeks. For more information call 621-8931.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

Women's Music Industry behind the scenes slide show presented by Radical Women. Dinner at 6:45 (donation), meeting at 7:30. 523A Valencia. Call 864-1278.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Green Cities by 2000? discussed by Peter Berg (A Green City Program). He'll describe how we can work toward a sustainable future by adopting conservator values and getting city governments to restructure priorities. 8 pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia.

Komotion Koffeehouse art opening, poetry, food, and open mike. 8 pm, 2779 16th Street. Always free.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

Dr. S. Diane Bogus reads and signs her new book, *Dyke Hands & Sutras Erotic & Lyric*. She's also written *Woman in the Moon* and *I'm Off to See the Goddamn Wizard, Alright!* 7:30, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. Donation \$5 - \$7.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Phoenix Ironwrks presents very vigorous folk music. Have piano, will travel. 8 pm, Buffet Flats Books, 307 Cortland.

International Jazz Night featuring Swiss trio *Triton Plus*, *The Robert Haven Group* and *John Grunfest*. 8:30 pm, Komotion, 2779 16th Street.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Angel Island Picnic for Older Lesbians sponsored by Operation Concern. Bring food, music, frisbees, etc. \$7 for ferry. 10 am ferry, Pier 43 1/2. 626-7000.

MONDAY, JULY 31

Bay Area Theatresports Varsity Match with veteran players. See what they mean with spontaneity breeds content. 8 pm, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. \$5.

ONGOING

Clown Dreams with Lorenzn Pickle aka Larry Pisoni of the Pickle Family. This one man show journeys back and forth from the subconscious to the conscious, in which the audience is invited into the clown's dream world. The show runs Wed-Sat at 8 pm, Sunday at 7 pm through July 16. Tickets are \$11 - \$17. Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th. Call 558-9898.

A Table for Two with Ian Shoales (Merle Kessler) from NPR's *All Things Considered* and the ubiquitous J. Raoul Brody. It's an evening of songs, patter, jokes and an enraged diatribe or two. Fridays at 10 pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30. Tickets are \$11. Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th. Call 558-9898.

Live Jazz/Blues and just plain jazz each Saturday at 7. The Clarion, 2218 Mission.

Disgusted Agnos Precinct Captains meet regularly (almost) every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Cafe Picaro, 3120 16th Street.

Family Storytime for all ages each Wed. at 7 pm. Mission Library, 3359 24th. Take advantage of this library program before funding is threatened again!

Drop Shnp is a combination Artist Drop-in and Mixed-Media Workshop. Its main focus is to allow the artist to enjoy creative freedom without instructions. It offers two separate stages from which to create. Stage A will offer a live model and setting. Stage B offers a still life setup (i.e. mannequins, mixed-media, etc.) 6:30 pm every Thursday, \$5 registration fee. Noble Center for the Arts, 347 Dolores at 16th.

Abstract Print: a sample of Latin America printmaking runs through July 22, with works by Jerry Concha, Nelson Felix, Victoria Jaramillo, Gunther Gerzso, Carlos Pasquetti, Gustavo Rivera & Patricio Toro. Galeria de la Raza, 2851 24th. 826-8009.

The Table is, and we *must* quote, "a site specific sculpture that would stand in contradistinction to the Sutro Towers, their spindly lengths of metal, mined, smelted and formed into tendril antennae radiating invisible waves while the motley pillars of chert stand as sentinels holding the memory of a million suns." One million suns: just the thing needed to view invisible waves. Alligator, 924 Valencia through July 23.

Calendar listings are free to all Mission organizations and old bohemians; \$5 for outsider mentions.

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—by Robert Cole

ALMANAC: July has been the name for the first month of summer (in the Northern Hemisphere) ever since the days of Julius Caesar. Reportedly Julius was born at this time of the year; his cousin Augustus was born in the following month. Before the Roman Era, many tribal cultures honored this as the Season of the Crabs. Not only is it the annual spawning season for most crabs, but it's also the best time of the year to catch crabs. People who celebrate their birthdays during the first three weeks of July are believed to live lifestyles akin to the crabs.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19): Incredible pressure begins to build in your housing situation at the very beginning of the month. It's an annual predicament but this year the landlord is particularly threatening and your housemate seems to have drawn the last straw. Take this advice and have some extra money ready when they come calling. And remember, no business is more important than family business this month. Success is in your own backyard.

TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20): This month is a constant exercise in paying attention to everybody else's ideas, problems, decisions and confusions. Set aside big ideas of changing the world and open your ears and your consciousness to friends and strangers. Absorb as much information as possible; read a new book every week; catch up on the new research in your field. By month's end your mind will be in tip-top shape and your opinions will be significantly different.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20): During July, just about everything you touch turns to gold. Your work is extremely profitable; your art is the rage and your friends are anxious to pay off old debts. Let the cash pile up around you and refuse to let your generosity get out of hand. Don't waste your money trying to buy friendship right now. Project yourself as a tight-wad who's interested in dealing only with other tight-wads. There will be better times to share in the future.

CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22): Happy Birthday to all the little crabs in the audience! It's been especially difficult to drag you out of your hiding place lately and you may decide to forego any birthday celebrations completely. Why expose yourself to harsh criticism and social competition again? Spend your birthday month indulging in privacy and spiritual development. Take care of yourself and forget about the problems of the world. For your astrological chart, send birth date/time/place and \$2 to Robert Cole, P.O. Box 884561, San Francisco, CA 94188.

LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22): The major restructuring in your job situation which was initiated last month is put to the test this month. Now that you have asserted yourself as an authority in your special field, important potential customers will test your credibility, not to mention your expertise. You will pass all the tests with flying colors. But more important than your career is your health. Avoid work which makes you feel sick and tired. There's too much at stake at this time in your life.

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22): July is the best time of the year for the average Virgo to experience a fresh new start. Many new ideas will pop into your imagination and

friends will encourage you to get involved on a whole different level of commitment. Actually it's to your greatest advantage to wait until the end of the month before you make any definite long-range plans. Aside from future-tripping, this month should be full of fabulous social events. Go to every one!

LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22): Travelling to far-out places will make this month one of the most incredible times in your life. But to heighten the excitement it appears that an extremely passionate lover will accompany you on your voyages. Now isn't that special! Totally indulge in as much luxury as you want, but don't forget your household responsibilities. It would be a shame if you came home and found that someone else had moved into your place.

SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 22): The intense heat of the summer ignites your libido and every pore in your beautiful body sweats with lust. Here's hoping that your sexual partner is just as stimulated as you are, otherwise you could find yourself in a terrible state of denial and suppression. Besides maniacal sex, this month is also full of wheeling and dealing with slick operators. Don't be shy. Take their promises and then take their money too.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21): Secret involvements make this month seem like a short story out of a romance magazine. It all starts out with a suspicious interlude with a wild redhead who tells you all his secrets and thereby possibly implicates you in a crime. Listen carefully and make love like mad, but absolutely refuse to make any long-term contracts. This is just a summertime fling which must be done and over with by month's end.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19): All those people you've been stomping on during the last six months suddenly gather enough strength to set you in your place, and don't be surprised if that's pretty far away from their place. You might call them softies and wimps, but a big-bully attitude ain't gonna get you nowhere. As difficult as it may be, acting with tenderness and compassion can save important relationships from collapse. If you're ready, they are willing.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18): This month is "health month" for you. Start with restructuring your sleep schedule; early to bed and early to rise will make you healthy and maybe wise. Then get serious about your outrageous diet; make a major effort to eat more fruits and vegetables while avoiding meat and cheese. Finally take a good look at your mental health; it's time to break bad habits and bad relationship commitments. Consult a psychic healer for extra help if you need it.

PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20): Put away your astrology chart and the tarot cards and the fortune-telling coins. Promise yourself right now that you won't think about the future all month long. Stay in the present moment and concentrate on what's going on, not what you wish was going on. Fill up the moment with romantic humor, playful games and loud, boisterous laughter. And if a sweet young thing wants to tickle your fancy, don't put up any resistance. Ya'hear?



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THE WORLD'S WORST PANHANDLING LINE

Editor's note:

Last month when Frank Deadbeat and I went to pick up the June issue of the North Mission News at the printer, Frank decided to have a real close look at the presses. Too close!

When we fished him out several hours later, the lead story in the Noe Valley Voice (The Birth of New Bohemia in the Mission) was tattooed all over his body. In this disfigured and somewhat obscene state, Frank was unable to find gainful employment this month (not that he was ever did much before). Anyway, there must have been some brain damage too, probably due to osmosis, because Frank has made a real pest of himself these last few weeks as a panhandler at 16th and Mission. He's using the McDeadbeat Panhandleware spiel (available for only \$150 from Frank Deadbeat c/o this paper) that is transcribed below. Other than being beaten up 14 times, it doesn't seem to be getting him much attention.

Sir! Sir! Let's talk about the violent overthrow of the American government. The complete dismantling of the financial-military-industrial complex. I mean burn



the banks. Dump sugar in the gas tank of every parked car you see. Blow up McDonald's, Burger King, and Taco Bell. Debilitate the police force of every town and city by dosing the coffee supply of every donut shop with LSD. Erase all borders. Give away everything you own. Stop using deodorant. Get fired. Grow a beard. I'm serious.



What I have in mind is sort of a cross between Carnaval and what those students tried to do in China. Only one problem: our society is more polarized than China's. Too many yahoos and bigots in the police and military who would just love to pop a few freaks. We'd have a full-scale civil war on our hands, but what the hell. It'd be better than re-runs. Besides, our side is

better prepared than those Chinese students. We've got biker gangs. We've got drug dealers, some of whom might be persuaded to help. We've got guns.

But we don't want to use them. Not if we don't have to. Not if we can manufacture enough LSD between now and then to dose every man, woman and child in the country for a week.

We'd be used to tripping, of course, so we'd still be functional. Ever see a movie called "Wild In The Streets"? Shelley Winters and Hal Holbrook? Never mind. It was just establishment propaganda anyway. Just an excuse to watch Shelley Winters quiver out on bad acid.

Anyway, it would be really cool if we could get this together. Dismantle the system; turn all the energy we put into building machines and bombs into making veggie burritos, brewing holistic beer, growing pot and parading half naked up Mission Street. A 24-hour party, 365 days a year. Whaddya say? NO? Well how about some spare change? A cigarette? Hey, man, I'm talk-ing to you!

Alright, buddy, your name is going on the list. Come the revolution, we'd better not find any fast food wrappers in your Volvo.

CRACK OF DAWN

- by Barry Eisenberg

Dawn comin up in the North Miss barrio
In this cheap broke down hotel still do I
tarry, oh

Ho in the next room
I smell you stinkin sweet perfume
Noises comin through the wall
Arguments goin on up and down the hall
Stupid and brash

Y'all peddlin yo ass
Gimme a break
It's Sunday four a m, and much too early
to be awake

Crack attack, crack attack, crack attack

Dear God, Dear Woman what price do I,
must I gotta pay

So's I won't be stayin here for yet another,
still one more Father's Day

Beer, fortified wine and crack cocaine
And who knows what all kinda shit
runnin round and round da brain

When I was younger and a little bit
dumber

I prolly woulda been one a your
customers

What kinda life is that for you woman
To forgive is divinc, and to err so so
human

Crack kills, crack kills, crack kills

Question one: is a sex industry inevitable

Question two: is biology equitable

Question three: aidez moi

Question four: blah blah blah

Question five: who cares

Question six: where's the Mayors

Question seven: dirty points, unsafe sex

Question eight: human beings turn into
wrecks

Question nine: what's love got to do,
gotta do with it

Question ten: is there anybody out there,
any age, any sex who might like to, say,
really want to move, want to move, want to
move with it

Crack attack, crack attack, crack attack

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